

# THE Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

## Library Economy and Bibliography

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. 14.

AUGUST, 1889.

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C: A. CUTTER, R: R. BOWKER, *Editors.*

THE library profession of America and the library constituency of St. Louis have suffered a most serious loss in the death of Mr. John N. Dyer, Librarian of the St. Louis Mercantile Library. He was sadly ill during the Conference of the Association in that city, in the planning of which he had been so prominent, and it was a great deprivation to the members of the Association that they could not welcome him to their meetings and thank him for his participation in the invitation which brought them together so pleasantly and successfully. Under these circumstances his death, following so soon upon the St. Louis meeting, will have an added poignancy and be in the nature of a personal grief to those who attended the Conference of 1889. How much St. Louis itself is indebted to him can only be appreciated by those who have visited the perfect library-rooms and the fine building which the Society of which Mr. Dyer was the moving spirit and working executive provided under his capable administration for the service and comfort of the people of that city. Few men have been able to build themselves such a monument as he, for that indeed he has done in the great building in which St. Louis takes so much pride. It will be most fitting should the trustees of the St. Louis Mercantile Library decide to place on the building or in the library-rooms some tablet commemorative of the part which Mr. Dyer had in its erection, in addition to the bust which is rightly to find place there. To his surviving family, on behalf of the Association, we tender sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

THE World's Fair of 1892, which will be held in New York — or somewhere, should be made the occasion of the finest possible library exhibit. All the leading libraries, in coöperation with the Association, ought to take prompt steps toward giving their utmost help in this direction. The Association, we would suggest, should support the Library Bureau in exhibiting a typical library with all the improvements in methods and appliances which have developed within the recent library period — for this would do as much as any one thing to promote library progress throughout the country. This ought to be supplemented by pictures of our great libraries and special ex-

hibits of their catalogues, appliances, and methods of work, and in connection with the general exhibition here should be a printed statement or manual which might be prepared by the Publication Section, intended to suggest to such citizens as might see the exhibition the importance of providing local libraries in their home towns, and to library visitors the bettering of their methods and conditions of work. Doubtless the Bureau of Education would coöperate with the Association in such a presentation of the library interests, and we throw out this suggestion now "to take time by the forelock."

WE again call attention to the practical value of the series of comparative articles on the methods of representative libraries regarding everyday work and details. The second article, on the purchasing of books, covers a field in which the experience of the larger libraries is particularly valuable to the smaller libraries. Promptness in putting books on the shelves and in offering new books to the public can, of course, be accomplished only by promptness of purchase, and this depends on the methods of organization of the Purchasing Committee, where the work is not left entirely to the librarian. The practical usefulness of this series will be in enabling librarians to go to their Boards or Committees with these statements of the work of other libraries in justification of any improvements the librarian wishes to suggest. Among the other articles which will follow in the series will be papers on reserving books, duplicates, circulating magazines, etc., all of them practical points of every-day interest to every librarian.

## Communications.

### PERMANENT LOCATION—A CORRECTION.

WHEN I used the words "permanent location" in my report, I did not do so in any technical sense, but merely to denote in general terms the permanent quarters of the library in contradistinction to its temporary ones, and had no intention of proposing the adoption of the old fixed location system to which you take exception in your note in the LIBRARY JOURNAL (14: 136).

I see that by a misprint in that note you give us credit for ten times as many volumes as we actually possess, but the statement is so obviously erroneous that it ought not to mislead any one.

GEO. WM. HARRIS.

## HOW WE CHOOSE AND BUY NEW BOOKS.

## WORCESTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE final authority in buying books rests with the Board of Directors. That body delegates its authority to a sub-committee known as the Library Committee.

The selection of books to be bought is practically speaking made by the librarian. The Library Committee meets once a month, half an hour before the time of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

Several days before the meetings of the committee and board a list of books prepared by the librarian is sent to every member of the board, including, of course, the members of the Library Committee. The list is prepared on slips and copied into a book; then twelve copies are made by means of charcoal paper and a stylus for distribution among the directors. The Library Committee has power, of course, to reject or amend the list, but generally takes it as it comes from the librarian and recommends its purchase to the Board of Directors.

The board has the power to reject or amend the list, but seldom exercises the power. Formerly the Library Committee exercised the power reposed in it and actually selected the books which were to be placed in the library, under the direction, of course, of the full board. For many years, however, the Library Committee and the Board of Directors have left the selection of books to the librarian. When trust of this kind is reposed in an executive officer it is incumbent upon him to observe formalities carefully in order that the machinery of purchase may be kept in good repair and be ready for use in cases of emergency.

Provision is made by which the Library Committee may spend a few hundred dollars between regular meetings of the Board of Directors on condition that transactions under this permission shall be reported to the board at the next meeting after they have been made. The Library Committee delegates its authority in this matter, also, to the librarian.

Books are usually chosen for addition to the library after a thorough examination of notices of new books in the best American and foreign literary and scientific critical journals or after careful inquiries have been made to ascertain that they are really standard works.

Novels and stories are not bought until time enough has elapsed for their real character to be found out.

The standard of purchases is raised every year, and the work of the library is constantly becoming more and more strictly educational.

Great care is taken to make citizens understand that they own the library and to encourage them to make known any wants they may have. Attendants are instructed also to find out the wishes of users of the library, and great care is taken to find out the actual wants of the constituency of the library, and to supply them.

After the purchase of the list of books has been ordered by the Board of Directors, the copy in the book referred to above is signed by the Secretary of the Library Committee.

Nothing now remains but to buy the books. Letters are written to different correspondents of the library and copied by the use of a copying-press.

The library has a contract with a firm in Boston to furnish it American books, including such as are hard to get at.

In buying English books the library joins several other libraries under the leadership of the librarian of the Boston Athenæum.

The libraries in the Union send their orders direct to the correspondents selected, and packages come to them once a month from London. The packages from London come in a box or boxes to Boston, and are thence despatched by express to the libraries to which they belong, under the supervision of Mr. C. A. Cutter. The libraries in the Union have the advantage of securing terms abroad such as are allowed only on large orders and of reducing charges for freight to a minimum amount. There is no charge either for custom-house brokerage. Packages also come regularly and often; they are received oftener than once a month if occasions call for more frequent delivery of goods.

German books may be obtained by the use of the facilities of the associated libraries. This library, however, owing to the fact that it is now buying large invoices of the higher grades of old and new German works, has just united with Clark University in carefully selecting a new agent in Germany. This library has imported Swedish books direct from Stockholm and imports French books through an agent in Boston. The members of the Union mentioned above attend themselves to all mistakes of correspondents and remit direct to them. Mr. Cutter keeps an account of money paid out for freight, and

notifies the different libraries, from time to time, of the amount owed by them as determined by the proportion of the money value of their purchases.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN.

#### NEW YORK MERCANTILE LIBRARY.

THE Board of Direction of the Mercantile Library is composed of twelve members. Each standing committee is made up of three persons. One of these committees is styled the Purchasing Committee. A part of the duty of this committee is to supervise the purchase of books.

New publications are added to the library almost daily.

A large portion of our constituency instead of using the aids and guides for readers issued by the library, rely almost wholly upon the publishers' announcements as advertised in the newspapers. It frequently happens that a member will call at the library as soon as it is opened in the morning, which is eight o'clock, and ask for a certain book. When told that the library does not possess the work asked for, he will draw forth his morning newspaper and show where the book is advertised, and thinks it very strange that the library has not got it. It behooves us to be on the *qui vive* for all the new publications.

As it is impossible for our committee to meet daily, the power to select and purchase the books is delegated to the librarian. One of his first duties, upon reaching the library in the morning (if he has not done so beforehand), is to learn what new books are announced as ready. To do this it is necessary to refer to several of the morning newspapers. If there are any new books advertised, an order is made out for the number of copies needed and at once sent to our agent. The evening papers are overhauled in the same manner as the morning papers. The trade journals, such as the *Publishers' Weekly* and *Publishers' Circular*, are thoroughly scanned. The librarian makes it a rule to visit the store of our agent daily, and here he frequently finds books that have not been advertised.

We find it both profitable and convenient to purchase most all of our domestic books through one agent.

He knows our wants and makes every effort to fill our orders at the earliest possible moment. Our London agent has orders to send us a copy of everything that is published of certain classes of books.

We are thus enabled to obtain the English

publications as early as it is possible to get them after they are issued.

At times we receive an invoice of English books weekly.

Our agents for French and German publications send copies to the library as soon as received. Upon examination, if there are any that we do not need, we have the privilege of returning them.

The following is from our annual report, just published:

"On Saturday, April 13, four publishing houses in this city and one in Boston each advertised a new book. These books were by five different authors. An order was given for 115 copies of them. They were received at the library, catalogued, stamped, made ready for circulation, and before the library closed on the day they were published, all but two of them were in the hands of our readers."

W. T. PEOPLES.

#### APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

A COMMITTEE of five members is appointed by the library committee (which is appointed anew each year by the President of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, of which society the library is a branch), whose business it is to make all the purchases for the library for the ensuing year. This committee meets regularly every Monday. The first thing done, after their appointment, is to invite estimates from reputable houses to furnish all the books the library may require for one year. The publisher who receives the contract agrees to send every Monday all the new books that have been issued up to that time, or at least as many of them as, in his judgment, are of a character likely to be required by our library. A list of the names and prices accompanies the books. The committee examines the books, draws a line through those it does not want, notes in the margin the number of duplicates required, and sends the list, with the books rejected, to the publisher, who then makes a corrected bill, and sends the additional copies ordered, also returning the original bill, which is the librarian's voucher. The librarian is the secretary of the Purchasing Committee.

In addition to the books thus voluntarily sent by the publisher, the library keeps lists of books frequently asked for by readers, and submits these to the Purchasing Committee who generally approve of their purchase. In fact, our readers are encouraged to make their wants known and



they frequently submit lists of deficiencies in our library, which are thankfully received, and, as a rule, always purchased. Our object is to buy such books only as will be read, and therefore we consider an application from a reader for a book not on our catalogues entitled to respectful consideration inasmuch as it expresses a want, and the book will find at least one reader.

JACOB SCHWARTZ.

NEW YORK Y. M. C. A. LIBRARY.

THE method employed in purchasing books for the Young Men's Christian Association of New York is simple, and as follows:

A list of books is made up by the librarian and laid before the Library Committee, which is called monthly. If the list is acceptable and funds are at hand, the librarian is instructed to purchase.

The list is made up from new books noticed in the papers, from recommendations, from personal inspection of new books in the stores, etc. American books, as a rule, are bought from one firm—foreign books are purchased by an agent in London, and shipped to us through the agent's broker in New York, who attends to the clearance—the librarian being required to make the customary declaration only.

R. B. POOLE.

BROOKLYN LIBRARY.

THE selection and purchase of books in our library is, for the most part, the work of the librarian; but he can, if necessary in case of high-priced works, or in any case where he prefers not to rely entirely on his own judgment, confer with the Chairman of the Library Committee, who also makes selections, from time to time, from the newest English publications. Information regarding new books is obtained from various bibliographical periodicals, such as *The Publishers' Weekly*, *Publishers' Circular*, *Book Chat*, *Literary News*, *Book Buyer*, etc.; from the book-lists received from publishers, from the advertisements in the newspapers, and from reviews and notices in *The Nation*, *Critic*, and the press generally. As a rule, any new book by a prominent author is in circulation, or at least noted on the "order-book," before it is asked for at the delivery-desk; such work being usually ordered in advance of publication, and consequently sent to the library as soon as received by the bookseller.

Many standard works and duplicate copies of

worn-out books are bought at auction, a list of selections being made from the sale-catalogue, and sent, with limit of price noted, to the auctioneer, who makes purchases for those unable to attend sales.

Orders for books are sent to the booksellers of whom we buy, almost daily, but Saturday seems to be a favorite day with publishers for bringing out new works.

Of books by popular authors a number of copies are ordered in advance; but if the popularity of a new work is uncertain, fewer copies are ordered, as more can readily be obtained should the demand require them.

Suggestions from subscribers for the purchase of books not already in the library are always welcomed, and such works are generally bought so far as our means will permit, if no good reason for their exclusion exists.

In buying, those dealers who allow the most liberal terms are patronized, and the firm which receives a large part of our orders always allows the return of books containing any imperfections, or any which, on examination, do not prove desirable for our use. Good and scarce books are at times obtained from the duplicate stock of other libraries in exchange for selections from our own list of duplicates.

When a library is liberally endowed the purchase and acquisition of books is a great pleasure; but where the fund for this purpose is inadequate, requiring careful economy in outlay, the too familiar spectacle of a librarian with a list of forty books, all of which he needs, but only twenty of which he can afford to buy, is one not calculated to cheer a reflecting mind.

W. A. BARDWELL.

BROOKLYN Y. M. C. A. LIBRARY.

BEING a small library and forced to work with limited means, we have not done much in foreign books, and therefore have had no system for selecting such.

For American books and reprints I look over the announcements in the *Publishers' Weekly* as soon as received and use the margin for memoranda, opposite titles which treat mechanical and kindred subjects that I know we need bracing up on, and such as are satisfactorily "reviewed" by the *Weekly* I put a crossed check mark, which means put on want list. Those which are simply announced and concerning which I want more

information before recommending I mark with a simple check mark. Others which we should have, if they properly treat the side of the question upon which we need stocking up, are indicated by a ? The literary journals are watched for criticisms and reviews, and when satisfied regarding a checked book, it is put on want list. When this list is long enough to make it worth while, or when there is something needed at once, it is placed before the chairman of the Library Committee of the Board, who, of course, may disapprove any book on the list, but knowing that it is made up with great care, seldom cancels anything unless it be on a question of expense. From this list I make up an order, which is filled promptly by a New York dealer, at a good average trade discount.

S. H. BERRY.

## PHILADELPHIA MERCANTILE LIBRARY.

At the beginning of each year (Feb.) a committee of five (the Board consists of 18) is appointed, who meet on Friday of each week. Any other member of the Board who may be present is *ex-officio* a member of the committee. This committee makes all purchases for the library. The booksellers of the city send to us each week such new books as they think we may wish to buy, with a pass-book giving *net* prices. On Saturday they send for such books as are not bought. A distinctive mark is placed against such as are taken. The titles of those bought are entered in a purchase-book. Bills are sent in monthly, and are verified by the purchase-book and the pass-books.

At these meetings additional copies that may be needed of books in circulation are ordered, and also books that may not have been sent in on approbation.

The librarian makes it a point to examine publishers' lists, book-notices in periodicals and other works, to note the titles of books inquired for, and to recommend to the committee such books as he can from any source learn of as adapted to the wants of the readers and the scope of the library.

A book is kept on the counter in which readers are encouraged to note the titles of books wanted which are not on the shelves, and applicants for such books, when purchased, are given the first reading of them. Books so applied for are usually bought, because if *one* reader is known to want a book it is generally safe to conclude that others will want it.

JOHN EDMANDS.

## BUFFALO LIBRARY.

We have contract arrangements for the purchase of books with B. F. Stevens, London, Chas. Gaulon, Paris, and with two book-dealers in our own city for American publications. The latter send some books to us on approval, but not many.

We order almost everything that we buy, and order in advance of the appearance of the books, so far as it is possible to obtain advance announcements. We try to get the first copies that come into the city of all important or known books, and to have them ready for the first call from our readers. Of course that is not always possible, but it is our aim.

Our Library Committee meets monthly. During the intervals the Superintendent purchases at discretion the current literature which it is the settled policy of the library to buy, and about which there can be no question. There are many authors whose writings are bought as a matter of course, and there are a good many departments and subjects with reference to which the question of purchasing or not purchasing any work of apparent importance that appears is simply a question of financial ability on the part of the library. That is left largely to the discretion of the Superintendent, a certain maximum of expenditure being agreed upon from time to time, which it is understood that he will not exceed.

All publications that do not clearly fall into such categories as these, and the expediency of buying which is fairly open to question, are held in suspense until the meeting of the Library Committee, when a list of them is submitted for consideration.

The extent to which duplicate copies of books in demand shall be procured is also left, for the most part, to the judgment of the Superintendent.

We keep always on our delivery counter, conspicuously placed, a request-book, in which readers enter such particulars as they can give concerning books which they do not find in the library and which they ask to have purchased. We meet these requests, if they are reasonable, as far as possible, and reserve the book, when it is bought, for the applicant, sending a notice to him. We also keep a memorandum-book behind the counter, in which attendants make a note of books asked for which the library does not possess.

J. N. LARNED.

## DEPARTMENTAL ARRANGEMENT OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

THESIS READ BEFORE THE LIBRARY SCHOOL. BY EDITH E. CLARKE.

Is it desirable to divide a college library into separate departmental or seminary libraries, corresponding to departments of instruction in the college? On this proposition I take the affirmative, and shall try to show that in some cases the foundation of separate departmental collections will best fulfil the mission of the library—that of practical use.

I want to restrict my subject to the support of the proposition just laid down. That is, do not expect me to arrange the distribution of the library between the several departments, nor to lay down in detail a plan for the management of such a system. My work is argumentative, not constructive, and I will only undertake to show when and why the plan proposed is feasible and convenient.

1st, as to the case where this plan is to be applied—for I am not so demented as to assert that all libraries indiscriminately should be arranged on the plan which is argued to be the best for one type among them. The type to which the plan of departmental libraries may be applied is college libraries, connected in their life and their use with schools of instruction, with institutions where study is carried on on a systematic basis and courses of instruction are adhered to more or less strictly. Contrast the functions of such a one with the free public library. To the college library flock the students, all wanting the same book at the same time. A squad of them use one set of books during all of one term, another squad another set as regularly. All have some definite end in view, and this end is designated to them from the central point of the department or course of study they are under. Their researches radiate from this *primum mobile*, never depart from it, connect with it at all points, and finally return to it as the repository of all their acquired knowledge. The public library reader, on the contrary, is desultory. He may be reading about China with a view to silkworm culture, or if he asks for a valuable work on coins, it is ten to one that he is getting up a campaign badge. The second work he asks for will in either case send you to the remotest regions of the classification from the first. It is true that the free library stands in the same relation to the public schools that the college library does to its college, but the connection is vastly more remote. It is along the same lines and entails the same kind of responsibilities,

but other conflicting claims break in upon the adaptation of the one to the other, and the public library finds that the public school is only one of the most important among many patrons. Another point which effectually bars this plan from adoption in public libraries is the impossibility of admitting to free use of the books. Our scheme presupposes this and is nothing without it.

2d. I come now to the arguments for the plan. I will state them first and enlarge upon them afterward.

1. A large library becomes unwieldy and defies arrangement in one room under the eye of one man. It then becomes a question of stacks, or separate collections.

2. A large library for convenience and maximum usefulness must eliminate from its working-shelves books duplicated in different editions, antiquated works, and others for any reason not in common use.

3. By this arrangement the librarian gains assistants in responsibility for books and in their care.

4. The departmental system secures a maximum freedom in the use of books with minimum risk of injury or loss.

5. It is eminently adapted to relative location.

6. It is a logical outcome of the classed arrangement.

7. It is superior to the plan of reserving books and prevents friction among students using the same books.

8. It is in accordance with the most advanced methods of instruction.

9. Its usefulness is attested by its being adopted to some extent by three of the leading college libraries of this country.

First: a large library becomes unwieldy. It is desirable to have each reader under the eye of an official of the library. For this to be possible, either the number of officers must be increased or the library must be in one room. Put the great majority of your books in stacks and a worker cannot use them there to advantage. Or if he has table and light, will you detail a special member of the staff to watch him? It becomes a compromise; either books must be used singly, away from others of their class, thus rendering impossible parallel readings, most valuable of all methods of study; or individuals most worthy of that privilege, I suppose most book-learned to



start with, are admitted to the shelves, all others barred out. This is contrary to our library maxim, which is, Compel them to come in.

Second : books not used should be relegated to the stacks. The library has two functions, a workshop and a storehouse. Some of the books in Columbia Library belong to the museum department. I mean by that that they are of no earthly use, but are objects of antediluvian interest. The old fellows who took all knowledge for their province, and put all they knew in a quarto volume, should in these days of monumental achievements in science retire gracefully to the background, for they have finished their work in this world. A working library should be kept as free from lumber as possible. Books removed need not be put beyond reach and knowledge. It is a matter of choice as to whether the second function of a library, that of storehouse, shall be performed by all. The librarian of the Nebraska State Library acknowledges that he disposes of old editions and rare and choice books in preference for those of more practical use (see L. J., 8 : 246). Where one is met with I always think there must be others yet to hear from. The Cambridge (Eng.) University Library, which receives copyright accessions, puts aside those not deemed worthy of a place in the main library. The British Museum keeps on the shelves of its vast reading-room a selection of 20,000 standard works which it aims to keep abreast of the best thought of the day. To accomplish this these books are almost entirely renewed in the course of a single generation. All working libraries should have the same treatment.

Third : by the proposed arrangement the library gains in the professors and advanced students of the departments coadjutors in the responsibility and care for the books entrusted to them. The department is to a degree the curator of the collection. The vexed question of pamphlets will then be solved. Forming, as they do, the latest results of the studies of specialists, their importance, when put in the hands of those who recognize that importance, will insure their preservation. Do you think, if you were a special student in mathematics and spent much of your time in the mathematic seminary room, learning the outsidings of books as one learns the faces of dear friends, that that valuable monograph, paper-bound, on the theory of determinants, would be pushed against the wall to become dog-eared and dusty? Another consideration : Special use creates special interest. By classes is the most natural way for a library to grow, and would be bene-

factors prefer to enrich a department rather than an unwieldy whole.

Fourth : by this arrangement the maximum freedom in the use of books may be obtained with minimum risk. Only students of the department are admitted to its library — no others. Accountability is thus narrowed down. Add to this the sense of ownership and pride felt by the class in their collection, and you have so many detectives on the watch for any one who shall filch from the value of their store.

Fifth : the seminary arrangement is eminently adapted to relative location. Some one may say that departmental libraries break up the order of the classification so that relative order is unattainable. In answer to this — two things : (1) A large library so planned as to have all its books in consecutive order on the shelves without a break must be either all one large room or all stacks. In the one case it would resemble a skating-rink, in the other a prison. (2) Relative location does not assist in finding books till you know the *fixed* location of the class. It would be difficult to begin at No. 1, and follow the classes around till you came to 900, here at Columbia. And in these separate libraries classification with respect to the whole library and relative location should be maintained. I cannot be so disloyal to that method to which all true members of the Library School pin their faith, as not to carry the Dewey classification with me into departmental libraries as into all others. Duplicates there may and must be in these separate libraries, but they bear a class number according to their location. Books too valuable to duplicate must be supplied by dummies, shelf-reference, or supplemental lists.

Sixth : the departmental library is the legitimate outgrowth of the classed arrangement on shelves. Arranged syllogistically, the argument may be put as follows : Whatever arrangement enables a reader to find quickest and easiest, and most conveniently for his needs, all that a library has on a given subject, is best. Classed arrangement on shelves does this best for general readers ; therefore classed arrangement on shelves is best for general readers. Departmental arrangement does this best for special students ; therefore the departmental library is best for special students.

Harvard Library has a plan of reserving books temporarily on order of a professor. These books are put on the shelves in the main library : the class being directed to use them freely. In 1887 as many as 6280 were reported thus withdrawn from circulation at one time. This plan

must entail confusion in all departments, and I should think special collections for the departments would take the place of this to a great degree. There must also be some friction amongst students all using the same books. If placed in their hands with absolute freedom, as the Law Library in Columbia is, this is reduced to its minimum.

My eighth is the main argument; more important than all that precedes or follows it. The departmental library works on the line of the most advanced methods of instruction. As books multiply and the sum of knowledge doubles with every century, the system of acquirement of knowledge develops in two ways. It requires (1) wider acquaintance with authorities, and (2) more special investigation. Both of these lines require a greater number of books and more frequent reference to them than the old way, which had constantly in hand a few authorities which were depended on for all information needed. Now there is gleaning from all fields, and the man without books may better be without brains as far as work in any department of facts is concerned. Formerly it was a student's acuteness and intellectual calibre that was to be nurtured; now methods of study and use of authorities form a large part of instruction in all departments. I do not need other arguments in its favor than to mention that at Harvard, last year, "Under the name of seminary or special advanced study and research, this plan is introduced in the study of the Semitic languages, Latin, English, psychology and metaphysics, political economy, history, Roman law, mathematics, and, of course, the natural sciences. Not one of these seminaries existed fifteen years ago."<sup>1</sup> A description of the seminar given by Dr. H. B. Adams in "Seminar libraries and university extension" (1887) may be interesting to those who are not familiar with the subject.<sup>2</sup>

We hear most of the study of history conducted in this way; let me read also a description of a seminar conducted by the famous Dr. Ernst Curtius in classic art:<sup>3</sup>

"For the afternoon, M. Curtius asked me to meet him at the Museum of Antiquities, where he gives, weekly, a lesson on Greek and Roman archaeology. On his arrival the students, strolling about in the college waiting for him, came together, saluting him silently, then replacing their hats on their heads. He also remained covered and

began without delay a tour of archaeological demonstration. Armed with a paper-knife of ivory, he went from one object to another, explaining and pointing out most minute members with the point of his paper-knife — now raising himself on tiptoe, now going down on his knees to better illustrate his remarks. Once he laid himself on the floor before a Greek statuette. Leaning on his left elbow and brandishing in his right hand his trusty paper-knife he launched forth into raptures upon the perfection of form and execution of a miniature masterpiece. It can easily be imagined how profitable instruction so ardently imparted by such a teacher in the midst of such a college must be to the pupils. The lesson that I heard turned only on subjects of minor importance — tripods, candelabras, plaster vases, etc. — but in spite of that, there seized upon one an infectious enthusiasm, a sort of odor of the antique enveloped one."

I am sorry I cannot, within the limits of this paper, go into a detailed examination of how far the seminary method is used in other colleges and in what departments. But it is safe to say that where Harvard leads others will soon follow. I hope I have said enough to show that work with the authorities at first hand forms an important part of instruction in all departments of knowledge in our day, and requires the library as faithful coöperator.

Ninth: the advantages of the proposed scheme are attested by the arrangement of three leading libraries of the country — Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia. The Johns Hopkins University report for 1887 makes a statement as follows: "The library numbers 35,000 bound volumes. These are arranged in several collections of which the following are the chief: (1) General reference; (2) Historical; (3) Mathematical and Physical; (4) Chemical; (5) Biological; (6) Classical; (7) Semitic and Sanskrit; (8) Romance languages; (9) Teutonic languages."<sup>4</sup> At Harvard the sentiment of the chief librarian seems to be in favor of departmental libraries.<sup>5</sup> Growth in this direction, however, does not seem to have been so rapid as he has anticipated, for in 1887 he reports in all the separate collections in various class-rooms and departments a total of only 5200 volumes. We must add to these the 6280 reserved volumes to get the entire number open to students in connection with their special studies. Here at Columbia the law library is a departmental collection, not in a separate room, for reasons of economy, but that too may come in time, as the general read-

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Foster, in "Seminary methods of original study in the historical sciences," 1888, p. 107-8.

<sup>2</sup> See also L. J. 5: 179-180.

<sup>3</sup> "New methods of study in history," by H. B. Adams, in v. 2.

<sup>4</sup> See also caution against any further separation into seminary libraries at the expense of the main library unless in way of duplicates. — *82d Annual Report*, 1883.

<sup>5</sup> See Winsor's report describing arrangement of Harvard University Library. — L. J. 6: 9-21; also 6: 65; also Harvard College Library; Reports: 1881 to date.

ers crowd the law students out. The students in political science are assigned tables in No. 4, in convenient proximity to the Government reports. Last winter the philosophical seminar found an easy place in No. 5, with philosophical books all around them, and theology, her twin sister, at one side. These examples might be multiplied had I time and space.

If my arguments have not convinced you, I have only one more weapon, viz., expert opinions on this subject gleaned from the *L. J.* and other sources. Mr. W. E. Foster says (*L. J.*, 9 : 239) in a report on arrangement of libraries as affording aid to readers : "When the question is one of meeting the wants of a collection created for special purposes of study and research, different considerations are involved which do not enter into the case of libraries collected on general principles. . . . Nowhere does the application of careful study and intellectual planning, to such a problem as this, seem to have been brought to so high a point as in the case of one of the department libraries of Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore." Then follows a description of Professor Adams' seminar library.

Mr. Bowker, in speaking of the ideals of various prominent librarians of libraries of the future, speaks as follows (*L. J.*, 8 : 249) : "Mr. Poole's cellular plan, so to speak, providing for growth by rooms, each of which may be a specialized library within easy distance of a common focus." Whether or not Mr. Poole's idea is faithfully reported here, it describes the plan I have been presenting

to you. In relation to it Mr. Spofford says : "Mr. Poole's plan would be entirely impracticable in the National Library, although suited to students."

Dr. Guild, of Providence, says (*L. J.*, 8 : 274) : "My own views in regard to a college library especially are in favor of the open alcove system, where the books can be classified according to subject and where professors and students alike can have free access to the shelves."

President White, of Cornell, has just left his fine historical library of 40,000 volumes to the university on the condition that a suitable *separate* room be provided for it. He also provides for a special librarian and professorship, thus creating a department around it of which it shall be the special library.

In conclusion, let me say that any one who cares to see a scheme of a vast library specialized as to subject will be well repaid for reading Mr. Cutter's paper on the Buffalo Library, in 1883, in *L. J.*, 8 : 212.

I have been saving till the last a noted exception to the rule I have been stating, viz., where a college library is so situated that it is called upon to furnish mental aliment, not only to its own students, but also to an almost greater number of specialists in every field. In this case it may be absolved from giving itself over so entirely to the convenience of its own students, and this work—I am bold enough to express the opinion—awaits Columbia College library in the future.

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY A FACTOR IN EDUCATION.

BY GEORGE E. HARDY.

[A Paper Read Before the New York State Teachers' Association.]

IN reading current educational literature the thoughtful observer cannot well escape the conclusion that there are few classes of people more given to extremes than teachers. We cheerfully admit that this state of affairs is not the ideally correct one. But to any one who has paid much attention to the alarming increase of pernicious reading-matter written especially for our young people, it is difficult to avoid taking an extreme stand. Indeed, there are moments when one feels that a jeremiad is the only proper form of composition, or pessimism the only avenue of escape. It has often been a subject for speculation with me whether there are many others beside teachers who have any just conception of the amount of objectionable matter that is turned out annually for the young. I am well aware that in this respect teachers enjoy exceptional opportunities for observation. They see not one child, but hundreds of children, and they are with

them not for odd moments during the day, but for many consecutive hours. But it is not alone in the school that a child's devotion to low and flashy literature can be seen; you meet with it everywhere. It obtrudes itself on your attention whether you go to school or stay at home; whether you walk in the streets, or ride in the cars and ferries.

And as for the literature itself, it is simply omnipresent. You find it in some of its protean forms not only in the hands of our school-children, but with boys and girls of an older growth, and even with men and women. A closer examination of this literature, whether it comes in the shape of the numerous dime and half-dime libraries or the brood of weekly story papers, will make known to you a sorry state of affairs. Grossly improbable and sensational incidents are described in vulgar English, plentifully besprinkled with coarse and slangy expressions. Not in-

frequently scenes and places that are the resorts of the vicious and abandoned of both sexes are speciously portrayed in a manner purposely intended to make them attractive to the young. Bombastic or maudlin virtue, hysterical sentimentality, impossible shrewdness, and even impudent immorality are the trademarks of their characters. Through the medium of their pages—more especially now, when alleged detective stories are in vogue—tender children are introduced to scenes and their innocent minds debauched by incidents that would bring blushes to the cheeks of their elders. The jails, the slums, the sewers, in short, every purlieu of crime is ransacked by the gifted authors of these studies in their search for new sensations, and agony is literally piled on agony to tickle the already jaded palates of their child-readers. To the average grown person who has dipped into their pages for the first time the ridiculous exaggeration common to all this kind of work is of itself the most powerful corrective. Disgusted at the gross improbability of the stories, he throws down the sheet with a laugh of contempt, and is thereafter sceptical of the power of such writings to work harm to any one, whether young or old.

But to the youthful reader whose immature mind is fattening on this literary pabulum it is a very different thing. Under his untried feet has been planted no world of solid realities, behind him is no past rich in experience by means of which he can properly measure the worthlessness of such writings. Like dram-drinking, it has become a dissipation, and before long it will be a necessity. He lives, or rather dreams, poor child, in a world of unrealities, peopled only by the monstrous and ridiculous creations of his penny-dreadfuls. He has been robbed of his intellectual vigor; his passions have been stimulated, and his will power weakened. He is rapidly undergoing a dangerous transformation, and the pity of it is that all too frequently his natural protectors, be they parents or teachers, stand idly by as he drifts along, seeing no harm, stretching forth no helping hand. If parents could only see and understand the mass of vicious books and papers that is to be found in the hands of their children, then perhaps they might realize that there are graver contagions than those communicated by bacteria and microbes.

And be it remembered that reference is not made here to obscene literature, which, thanks to the many energetic societies of noble men and women, has well-nigh disappeared from circulation among the young, but to the vast and villainous aggregation of the so-called "libraries" and story papers that you can find on almost every newsstand in the city. These are the agencies which, in the words of Tennyson,

"Feed the budding rose of boyhood  
With drainage of the sewer,  
Send the drain into the fountain  
Lest the stream should issue pure."

The thoroughness with which this rape of the innocents is being accomplished, and the irreparable damage wrought every day by these publications, which first prostitute and then pander to the natural taste of young people for excitement, may be estimated from the fact that one of these

sheets claims a weekly circulation of nearly half a million of copies. It seems to me that the wrong thus done to our boys and girls of America can be hidden from no man or woman who has given the subject a thought. Certainly the personal experience of every teacher in this assembly must find more than a passing echo in the following words of an eminent educator, the late Professor Johnnot, who, writing on this subject, says: "Nothing is more fatal to intellectual and moral growth than a devotion to low and sensational literary works. Like the growth of a poisonous fungus, the taste for sensational literature absorbs the vital forces and destroys all that is noble in life."

When we come to the consideration of the right kind of reading-matter for the young, we are brought at once, as has been well said, "to a means of education more potent than the schools themselves." Thoughtful teachers, recognizing that there are no educational influences more important than those which give right direction to the taste for reading, have long ago seen that the problem is not so much to teach their pupils how to read, but what to read.

Considering young people in connection with the reading habit, or the absence of it, we may divide them roughly into three classes: First, those children who from absence of proper encouragement, or proper books, or both, seem to have no taste for reading at all. Second, those who are apparently passive in the matter, capable of enjoying a good book when it comes to them, but neither craving nor searching for books. Third, those who greedily devour every scrap of printed matter that falls in their way; children who must read at all hazards, and if they cannot get good books will read bad ones. In describing the first class, I have said they seem to have no taste for reading, because I believe the absence of this taste is not real, but apparent. My experience has assured me that the taste for reading is latent in the mind of every child who has been taught to read, and therefore I am convinced that there are few, if any, children in our schools in whom the experienced teacher cannot develop the reading habit, nay more, the taste for good reading. It is quite true that we hear frequently many excellent people declare that they have no special taste for a certain kind of reading, be it history, poetry, or biography. In charity we must conclude that these remarks are simply thoughtless expressions. The truth being that through prejudice or sheer indolence they have never made a really honest effort to acquire a better or more varied literary taste than the one they enjoy at present. These persons have evidently never read Bishop Potter's little pamphlet, wherein he says: "It is nearly an axiom that people will not be better than the books they read," or else many of them would not be so willing to thus publicly gauge themselves.

With our first class of children the one thing needful is the quickening influence of good books under judicious direction. Such being the case, is it not clear that a great duty and responsibility rests on teachers from the very outset of their school work? For theirs it is to furnish the books and



to stimulate in their young charges the taste for good reading.

With our second class the need is simply a slight encouragement and abundant opportunity; the opportunity, for instance, that should be offered by our school libraries.

Our third class is the dangerous one at all times, and the one that requires the greatest delicacy in handling. They are the children who, I have said, "greedily devour books;" the expression is not an inapt one, for reading in the true sense they can hardly be said to do. As a rule these children read little but fiction, and, as librarians everywhere can tell you, are able to devour several story-books in the course of a single week. Indeed, there is a remarkable instance of gluttony on record in the case of an insatiate juvenile, who, for several consecutive weeks, read a new novel every day. Poor child! whoever he is, he has long been the object of my sincere pity.

The end of all such mental tipping, whether on the part of man or child, is as manifest as that of a drunkard. Craving excitement for his mental food, as the drunkard craves liquor, he seeks it and is always able to find it in the flashy literature of the day. Soaked at last in this demoralizing stuff, with his moral perceptions blunted and his mental faculties weakened, he loses all power of discrimination, and intellectually and morally, in the words of Holy Writ, "the last state of this man is worse than the first."

In such cases what can we teachers do? Much. Not quite everything, but more than most of us suspect. In the contemplation of this problem let us ever bear in mind that young people to acquire the habit of good reading, a habit fraught with consequences more serious to them than any of us can foresee, stand more in need of good opportunities and wise counsel than they do of taskmasters.

Among the many violent criticisms from official sources and elsewhere that the public schools of New York have been subjected to during the past year, strange to say, you will look in vain for the charge which serious educators regard, and rightly so, as the most vital of all the objections urged against the schools. The charge is not a new one, nor are the people who make it the most numerous in the community. Nevertheless, the alleged defect is a radical one, and reaches down into the very foundations of our public school system. The charge is that our schools do not teach morality; that the little morality taught there is incidental and of a negative character, and as such is not morality at all. It is not my purpose to enter on a discussion of this vexed question. I propose, rather, to show how an objection of this kind might be met, if not overcome, by our teachers using means already at their hands. At this late day it is not necessary to point out to teachers "that the tree of knowledge is not the tree of life." Our daily experience with our pupils has proven to all of us the truth of the proposition laid down by Herbert Spencer and scores of other writers on ethics, that there is and can be no inevitable connection between intellectual cultivation and individual virtue; that the knowledge of the alphabet does not carry with it any necessary moral uplifting. If our

school experience has not taught us the truth of this statement the pages of history will show us only too many examples of men distinguished alike by their genius and learning, yet steeped in gross vices and marked by contemptible weaknesses. What is true of individuals has likewise been true of peoples; for we shall not have to search the pages far to read of entire nations, at once refined and cultivated, yet hopelessly lost in vice and corruption.

How then, can the child's moral nature be reached and properly trained? If we fail to do this, we are certainly, to borrow one of the educational catchwords of the day, not "putting the whole child to school."

The formal teaching of morals alone I cannot but regard as a serious mistake. My observation has led me to believe that most kinds of didactic moralizing are sure to weary and repel children, even if they do not disgust them. A case in my own experience as a teacher serves to illustrate this fact: I had provided a library of nearly a hundred volumes for the exclusive use of my own class. Among them I had placed several books of the didactically-moral class alluded to above. For some time I had noticed with profound regret that notwithstanding many innocent artifices on my part, these good books were rarely taken out, and even then more rarely read, a harrowing fact, mutely but unmistakably attested by the unsullied cleanliness of their pages, as compared with their neighbors on the same shelves. One day, however, the climax was reached. Shortly after a new class had been promoted to me I discovered a note being stealthily passed from boy to boy. Confiscating it, I was much amused to read in the handwriting of one of my boys who had been left back a complete list of all my "moral" books, with the following awful warning to my new class printed in large letters below, "Don't get out these books; they are bum." It is needless to say that after pondering some moments over this precious missive I experienced much interior illumination on the subject of proper reading-matter for boys.

On the other hand, with books that inculcate moral truth by deeds rather than by words, I believe the case to be a very different one. Properly selected, there can be few better and more powerful incentives to right doing on the part of children.

It seems proper here to make a distinction between books of the right kind and those that are known among boys as "goody-goody" ones. Almost every healthy boy or girl, after a short experience with these books, has a more or less open contempt for the volumes between whose covers he is sure to find the inevitable and very tiresome story of the good boy, who always dies prematurely young after delivering the usual scaphic warning to the bad boy. An extended course of such milk-and-water reading, which to-day unfortunately constitutes the staple literary supply of our Sunday-schools, will, in a short time, transform the reader from an honest flesh-and-blood boy to a smug-faced young hypocrite, or else to a puling, sentimental creature, the emotional side of whose nature has been abnormally developed at the expense of the practical.



It would seem to be a measure fraught with much worldly wisdom for those having charge of libraries where these books do most abound to consign them to the funeral pyre, and substitute in their stead healthy, bracing books, where the lessons presented are not objectionably obvious, and where the moral comes in as it were by the way. Books bringing thus into the lives of our children more of love for God and country, a higher regard for truth and purity, and a greater respect for authority, will make a successful appeal to right thinking and right doing and offer to them strong incentives to loftier ideals.

It is by providing generous opportunities for the reading of books of this character, and by teaching the children to read them properly that, I believe, the grave problem of moral education in our public schools can be solved.

I have examined somewhat lengthily, and at the expense, I find, of other important topics, some of the existing evils and defects that can be remedied by the cultivation of the reading habit in the young; and, as I have said, the means for accomplishing so desirable an end are already at our hands. I refer to the well-selected and properly used school library which ought to be found in every school-house in the land.

No greater source of good, no more important factor in the whole educational machinery of our school system, outside of the teacher himself, exists than a judiciously selected and widely used school library. But where are the well-selected school libraries? They may be numerous in Utopia, but I doubt whether you will meet them frequently in this land of intelligence and education. Libraries in school-buildings you will have no difficulty in finding, providing you are persistent and dust has no terrors for you. But just as Charles Lamb said, there were books which were not books, so there are school libraries which are not school libraries, albeit they may answer to the dictionary definition of being a collection of books.

The time to which I am limited in my paper will not permit me to discuss the present condition of our school libraries, even if they were worth the while. Indeed I can only briefly touch on the general characteristics of the well-selected library.

At the start let us take a hint from Edward Everett Hale. Debating how the teacher may reach and hold his pupils, and how to make a collection of books that will be attractive to the young, he says: "Whichever avenue we take into the maze must be one of the pleasant avenues, or else in a world which the good God has made very beautiful the young people will go a-skating or a-fishing or a-swimming, but not a-reading, and no blame to them."

The school library should aim to be a little world, in books, of boyish life, its hopes, its ambitions, its aspirations, and its opportunities; and as such must be broad in its tastes and liberal in its sympathies. It should neither incline towards frivolity on the one hand nor gravity on the other. These are the Scylla and Charybdis of school libraries; and it is a matter of record that many a hapless collection of books in avoiding the one has perished in the other.

Should fiction find a place in the school library?

Undoubtedly. Fiction supplies a well-defined want in human nature and should be abundantly recognized in our libraries for the young. The reading of fiction with children is the first step in the acquisition of the reading habit, and to many restless spirits it is the only channel by means of which important truths will ever reach them. James Freeman Clarke has truly said that "reading fiction is not an evil to be abated, but a tendency to be educated, purified, and guided," and the first step in the rescue of our boys and girls from the influences of the baneful literature I have described is to supply them with good fiction in place of bad. For we should not forget that in the most of cases we are not working on virgin soil. While we have been blissfully sleeping the enemy has been busy sowing his tares and piling up his bank account. The enterprising author of "Roaring Rube the Ranger" and the gifted pen that has given "Dora Thorne" to an admiring world must be met and conquered.

Children like the narrative form of presentation best, and it would seem to be the most successful form for all literary work for the young. In good work of this kind children display a most absorbing and surprising interest, even in minute and carefully wrought-out details, as witness the unequalled popularity of "Robinson Crusoe," that child's classic of classics. If, therefore, fiction of a somewhat exciting character is to be placed in our libraries, it is because teachers, always missionaries, are never more so than when, as fishers of men, they are baiting their hooks to catch the young readers who have revelled so long in the lurid and gory literature of the period. In managing a school library we can learn much from the successful tactics of the enemy, and we should not disdain the proverbial and practical wisdom of a certain nameless old gentleman.

In our efforts to reclaim the youthful reader, let us not make the mistake of crowding the young too closely in the study of science and the examination of facts. Of late years there has been set up in the newspapers, the periodicals, and the schools a new god, the Moloch of Knowledge, as remorseless as his prototype at Carthage, and certainly more brazen. The absurd valuation placed on the knowledge of mere facts is one of the curious characteristics of our times. Of this tendency Cardinal Newman has said: "It is almost thought a disgrace, nowadays, not to have at a moment's notice knowledge and an original view on any question from the Personal Advent to Cholera and Mesmerism." In full conformity with the doctrines of this new faith writers who have come to regard our wretched children pretty much as butchers view those delightful Strassburg geese, have flooded the market with books, generally in the guise of stories, whose sole purpose is to stuff our young people with every conceivable branch of knowledge under the sun. Nobody reveres more than I do the authority of that eminent educator, Mr. Gradgrind, as to the value of facts to children, especially little ones; yet I protest that in loading our shelves with these works we are in danger nowadays of going even further than that worthy gentleman would have wished us.

Every well-balanced scheme of education looks

as carefully after the proper development of the imagination as it does that of the intellect; and it would be a blessing to those little dyspeptics whose minds have been surcharged with all kinds of facts if we could subject them to an extended reading course of that perennial delight, the Arabian Nights, or the almost as fascinating collection of the Brothers Grimm.

But while fiction has under a wise guidance an honest place in our libraries which should be ungrudgingly allowed, it is a grave mistake to have your shelves unduly freighted with mere stories. It is a delusion common to many that the reading of fiction necessarily cultivates a taste for more solid reading later on. The experience of most people will show the fallacy of all such reasoning, and will likewise demonstrate the truth of Schopenhauer's remark that "feeble writing unfits us for stronger food."

Children are capable of enjoying good books at a much earlier age than people suspect, and the chances of forming in the young a taste for good literature are much better than at a later period. In the series of articles entitled "Books That Have Helped Me," published in the *Forum* about a year ago, I remarked that the helpful books were those that were read chiefly in youth, certainly before middle age; the reason undoubtedly being that the young have then more time to read and reflect, and lasting impressions from books are more apt to be formed than later in life. In your collection of books remember that it is important "to guard against not only those books that mislead the conscience and studiously present ideas that are fundamentally false, but also against those that merely interest and consume time, but neither elevate the taste nor brighten life."

In our process of uplifting, and also in the formation of correct taste, the child's natural love for adventure can be utilized by the substitution of narratives of personal experience for those of the make-believe order. Thus the pleasant and respectable journey from "The Bloody Bandit of Deadman's Gulch" to Cooper and Scott can be made by the way say of Mayne Reid and Captain Marryat. Having gotten thus far, the pilgrim might take up books of travel and biographies; perhaps he can be induced to read history, more especially if he has dipped in the fascinating pages of Colonel Higginson's "Young Folks' History." If you can get your wayfarer thus far he is reasonably safe; your school library will provide for him thereafter.

The attitude of the school library towards the pupils ought to be a broad and catholic one. It should be at once a helper, an incentive, and a reward; to restrict it to any one of these aspects is to defeat its true purpose and degrade it to the level of some petty school device. If, therefore, we wish to realize the true object of all our school work, what the President of Cornell University has so strongly emphasized as the hunger and love for future acquisition and growth, let us throw the doors of our libraries wide open to all our pupils. For our children the school library overshadows in importance all other libraries, whether public or private. Selected for a special purpose, it is made up of only those books children need. Accessible under proper restrictions to

every scholar, young and old, it will bring the child's reading entirely under the supervision of the experienced teacher, so that systematic courses may be cultivated, even if they are not always pursued. Give the children a taste of the treasures locked up in the great storehouses of books, and you will be both surprised and delighted with the results of your experiments, even if you measure them from the low utilitarian standpoint of immediate returns.

Carlyle says "it depends on what we read after all manner of professors have done their best for us; the true university of these days is a collection of books." I would not like to accept all that Carlyle has written; but I do accept this statement, and accepting it I do not hesitate to say, notwithstanding the extreme ground I may seem to take, that our school work is to-day seriously defective and incomplete where it is not supplemented by the proper use of a well-selected school library.

Principal H. M. Lovell, of Elmira, opened the discussion following. He had been convinced for years that the danger to the coming generation was to a large extent in the literature. He had come across a young lady graduate a short time ago, who informed him that up to a short time ago she could not understand Shakespeare, but enjoyed the works of The Duchess. A change had been effected, however, which he found was due to the fact that the teacher of the class had inaugurated a series of critical readings, which he thought should be done in every school. Fiction has a place, and, if properly selected, could be made of great benefit. The use of books had become to be a most important acquirement for a large proportion of men and women. They should know how to glean the necessary information from the books and learn how to use it and not let it take possession of them.

Professor Root, of Hamilton College, Clinton, followed, and said the essayist did not exaggerate the evils of bad reading or eulogize too much the benefit of good reading. He thought it would be wise for the Association to prepare a list of books on various trains of thought to be used in the various schools throughout the State.

Professor Ellis, of Rochester, and Dr. W. J. Milne, of the Courtland Normal School, and Dr. Kellogg followed in a similar strain and spoke of incidents demonstrating the benefit of a library in the school-house.

#### RE-REGISTRATION AT THE LANCASTER (MASS.) TOWN LIBRARY.

BY MISS ALICE G. CHANDLER, LIBRARIAN.

HAVING tried an experiment in re-registration last spring and found it fairly successful, I describe it here as possibly solving the problem for some other town library. I do not suggest it for a large place; but in a country town a new registration can be made in this way with less work for the officers and less trouble to the borrowers than on the ordinary plan of beginning the registration entirely anew without regard to the cards in use. Lancaster has some 2080 inhabitants. The first registration was commenced 13 years ago, and

about 2000 names had been registered. These were recorded in a book in numerical order, but the residence, signature, reference, etc., are given on cards, filed alphabetically. I carefully read through these cards and divided them into three lots. One contained the names of those known to be residents at date, the second those known to be dead or removed from town, the third the doubtful ones. A copy was made of the last, and the voting list, the school census, and the town clerk's papers were examined for proofs of their presence or absence from town. Then it was looked over by several of the committee, and two or three other gentlemen whose occupations led them to have an extensive acquaintance. A new registration-book was then prepared, made from the cards of proved residents, and new numbers were given these same cards, in red ink. Meanwhile a new set of borrowers' cards had been printed, of a different color from the old ones, and as soon as the new members were assigned, a card was made out for each person entitled to one, and placed in alphabetical order in the drawer with its registration card. Everything being prepared beforehand, as fast as the old cards came in they were cancelled, and the new ones substituted. The set of doubtful cards was kept for reference, and the few people who appeared with cards belonging in that category were required to prove their right to them, when new numbers and cards were given them, but I do not think there were more than a dozen such. The new registration embraces now (March, 1889) 840 names. It was done ten months ago, and no complications have arisen. It is plain that this plan made less labor for the librarian than to have thrown away all the old material, and rewritten everything, with the advantage of doing the work at leisure, and giving the borrower no trouble at all.

#### BOOK THEFTS AT THE ASTOR LIBRARY.

A REPORTER of the *Star* told Superintendent Little, of the Astor Library, that he had discovered the mutilation of over 600 volumes, including encyclopædias, magazines, Patent Office reports, engravings, and that in the department of literature and classics there were many volumes lost and cut.

Mr. Little admitted that books had been stolen. "We are much stricter now, and have the means at hand to carefully watch any reader we may suspect. In three cases where we succeeded in making arrests, the thieves were dealt with promptly, and severely punished. But even in some, where detection followed, we had our sympathies aroused by the pleadings of the persons caught.

"In one instance, it was a case of utmost destitution, where a man stole several volumes to keep his dying and starving wife alive. He told us where he had sold the books and we redeemed them. In another instance it was a young man who was studying hard to pass an examination that would enable him to enter a profession. He told us he had to work hard for his bread and butter, had little time except at nights to study,

and no money to buy books with. We went to his room, a mere garret, and found the books carefully covered. In those cases," continued Mr. Little, "I do not think that the quality of mercy was strained. But in the case where a man was deliberately going into the alcoves and stealing valuable books, we were severe, and he was sent to prison for six months. We had been suspicious of him some time, but he was always on his guard, and finally one of the assistants saw him enter an alcove and take three richly bound and valuable books from a shelf and put them in his pockets. As he turned to leave the library we arrested him. He was so frightened that he made a full confession and gave us the address of a second-hand bookstore in Broadway, where he had sold them. We went there and recovered some.

"In another instance I discovered a number of volumes of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* stolen. I was astonished at this, for the volumes are quite large and heavy. To replace these was both a difficult and expensive task.

"The library, too, is much stricter nowadays in admitting readers to the alcoves. The British Museum regulation, requiring the applicant for that privilege to have the indorsement of two reputable and responsible citizens, has been enforced. Even then this privilege is denied, if we conclude that the applicant could be as well served at the reading-tables. At the closing of the library, too, a careful examination of the books is made, and if any mutilations are discovered the reader's slip is referred to and stringent measures taken to trace him. Should he, however, prove his innocence, then a diligent search is made for preceding readers."

#### NO NOVEL-READING IN HOT WEATHER.

*L. B. Walford, in the Critic, July 30.*

I LEARNED a curious fact at Mudie's yesterday — namely, that the novel-reading public does not read in hot weather. But they read at the British Museum, all the same. From Mudie's it is but a step to that wonderful repository, and under its vast dome there were many heads bent down, and many silent, absorbed figures at work. An attendant took me round the adjoining "suburbs," thirty miles of which encircle the central hall; and as we paced the grated corridors, we were told to look up and to look down, and behold! above and below were the same winding mazes, rising in tier upon tier one over the other. It is by such a contrivance, of course, that the thirty miles are made out. Even then, it seemed to me that space must fail some time, now that already three millions of books are accommodated, and the cry is still, They come. But I was speedily reassured. We had not seen all there was to be seen, even from the spot whereon we stood. A section of book-shelf (likewise of iron grating, and full to the brim) was gently drawn forward, and what did this not reveal? Books, books, books, section upon section, which could in like manner slide forward, until at length I began to believe that, as in water there are no depths in which animal life cannot be found, so there are no recesses in the British Museum in which books new and old, wise and foolish, will not find a resting-place.

## A RAILROAD LIBRARY.

*From the Baltimore Herald, July 16.*

THE B. & O. Free Circulating Library, Baltimore, was yesterday reopened, having closed since May for the purpose of recataloguing the books. The library dates from 1866, when the Garretts placed upon its shelves about 5000 volumes. Among the gifts which the Garretts have contributed to this institution are: \$8000 by Robert Garrett, \$3000 by Mary Garrett, and \$25,000 by the late T. Harrison Garrett. The library at present contains about 11,000 volumes, judiciously selected. There are also on the shelves all of the standard periodicals now in publication.

The yearly circulation numbers about 50,000 books, under the librarianship of Mr. A. M. Irving. The plan, as pursued by Mr. Irving, who has held that position since the establishment of the library, is one similar to the registered letter service of the post-office. The circulation of the books not being limited to residents of Baltimore alone, would require with any other plan an army of clerks, for wherever there is a station of the B. & O. there is also an agent of its library in the person of the station-master or some responsible official. All members of the library have numbers and hold requisition cards upon which they make known their wants by way of numbers as in other libraries. These cards are collected by the agent at each station and forwarded to Baltimore in an envelope marked "Mt. Clare." Thereafter the books asked for are selected and each individual is charged by way of a card deposited in a large box bearing his number and the number of the book taken out. All that are marked for the same station are tied between boards, to avoid abuse while on the way, and placed in a small bag with the destination and the agent's number marked upon it. It is very easy to trace the loss of one of these packages, since no official is allowed to part with it without receiving a receipt.

Mr. Irving says that the library never was in a more flourishing condition than at present. Whenever it is closed for a short time, in order that he may rearrange the books, he is in receipt of many anxious inquiries as to when it will be reopened. Fiction has the larger percentage in circulation, but works of science, etc., are by no means suffered to rest untouched. The members are taxed but 25 cents annually.

Each agency is given a catalogue, from which members not having one at home may select such books as they desire. Books may be selected for any member of a family.

## A LIBRARY FOR THE POOR.

*From the N. Y. City Mission Monthly.*

How these C. C. C. girls and boys have cheered us and the young people that besiege us on library days. The lady in charge says she is kept flying, to supply the demand for the books that have been added by our friends of the Church of the Puritans. Here is a part of Miss W.'s report: "The two copies of the 'Boys of '76' and 'Boys of '61' are never in, and scores of boys

inquire for them every week. Just now, everything relating to George Washington is booming, and the well-worn copy of his life is always journeying on, though we are almost ashamed to give it out in its dilapidated condition. Even the German readers have caught the fever, and inquire for 'Das Leben George Washington.' These latest volumes, just what we have wanted so long and so much, how welcome they are! Florence, our Jewish girl, will find her love of pictures and flowers gratified in 'Up hill and down dale,' and Nellie's sketches from nature will be copied and admired in her humble home. We did not realize before we saw these wonderful books how interesting to quite young readers the sciences could be made. It is not surprising that with such books it is easy to keep the boys away from dime novels—or will be, when we have enough of them."

At Olivet Library, which is open to the public as well as to those attending the chapel, 7810 books were circulated in 1888.

## EMBROIDERED BOOK COVERS.

*From the Mail and Express.*

BOOK embroidery is a fad which may attain the dimensions of a mania. There were days when it had the dignity of an art, and missals of the seventeenth century, volumes once belonging to queens and to monasteries and preserved in the collections of connoisseurs or unearthed by the antiquarian, form the models on which the new embroidery of books is based. A young girl who admires Whittier is embroidering a cover for a copy of his poems which she hopes may be accepted by the Quaker singer in his hoar but kindly age. A thick-piled green velvet is the material, and the design is a monogram of the poet's initials in gold and silver threads, with a conventional border. An amateur photographer has filled a portfolio with fine large prints of Hudson River and Catskill scenery. His pretty sister, who figures as "human interest" in many of the pictures, has designed for the volume which is to contain them a cover of soft drab velvet, against which background she has embroidered the old bridge in Sleepy Hollow with the headless horseman hard on the heels of Ichabod Crane, a fitting reminder of the legends of the Western Rhine. A dainty prayer-book belonging to a devotional little maid is cased in black velvet, adorned with lily sprays. Some one sent Mrs. Langtry a superb volume of historical costumes finely illustrated. This Mrs. Langtry has had bound in a cover of pale greenish-blue silk, over which wanders a design of golden dragons, winged and with wonderfully wreathed tails, which assault each other ferociously with teeth and claws. Book embroidery is not a difficult art if the artist adopts conventionalized designs for small covers, and subjects which can be treated in mass without fine detail for all work. It is not worth undertaking except for volumes of permanent value, but as applied to well-chosen books it is likely to prove a profitable field for the needle-women who enter the market while it is a novelty.



## Library Economy and History.

ANNUAIRE des bibliothèques et des archives pour 1889. Paris, 1889. 212 p. 18°.

"Ce petit volume, qui n'a l'air de rien, a opéré une vraie révolution. Il a fait connaître les bibliothécaires, et surtout les catalogues et inventaires des bibliothèques. Muni de ce guide, un travailleur peut circuler en France. Il n'a plus à craindre de trouver des portes fermées et des instruments de travail absents. Il est bien vrai que tel catalogue (Falaise, par exemple) existait partout ailleurs qu'à la bibliothèque de cette ville. Un des fruits du présent annuaire aura été de l'y avoir fait rentrer. Signalons à Saint-Calais un conseiller général, maire de la ville, qui cumule aussi la charge de bibliothécaire. N'y a-t-il pas à Roubaix un 'aide bibliothécaire,' le seul de son titre, le seul fonctionnaire qui appartienne au sexe des doctresses en médecine? Il semble que le commis des Estampes à la Bibliothèque nationale à Paris n'a pas été marqué. Mais la bibliographie est riche, bien riche, si riche, que les lecteurs du *Polybiblion* sauront gré à l'auteur anonyme de l'*Annuaire*, M. Ulysse Robert, et que tous les savants apprécieront grandement ce *vide mecum* indispensable dans leurs recherches et leurs voyages." — *Polybiblion*, juin, p. 545.

BELFAST, Ireland. History of the Linen Hall Library. By John Anderson. Belfast, M'Caw, Stevenson & Orr, 1889.

"In 1788 some 18 inhabitants of Belfast met together to found a literary institution under the title of the Belfast Reading Society, which was enlarged in 1792 to the Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge. In 1801 the books belonging to the society found a home in the Linen Hall, where they have ever since remained. Last year this institution celebrated its centenary; and the present volume, compiled by the hon. secretary, tells the story of its tentative beginnings and its present greatness, and also gives an account of its early office-bearers. It is illustrated with several portraits and views, and with maps of the town (now raised to the rank of a city) in 1685, 1757, 1791, and 1888. The whole forms a worthy record of the sturdy self-reliance and intellectual vigor of the race who have created the prosperity of Ulster—in the main, Scotch in blood and Presbyterian by religion. In 1792, with the Rev. James Bryson in the chair, the society unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of Catholic emancipation; two of its early secretaries were among the founders of the *Northern Star*, the organ of the United Irishmen; and its first librarian, T. Russell—"a great favorite for his literary taste, general deportment, and unbounded love of liberty"—was executed for treason in 1803. On the first organization of the library, the following characteristic resolution was passed:

"That every future member of their committee shall upon his admission sign a declaration that while he is in office he will not consent to the choice or purchase of . . . any common novel or farce or other book of trivial amusement."

"In 1863 authority was given to obtain 30

volumes—presumably including fiction—from a London circulating library; and the amount set apart for this purpose quickly rose from £7 15s. to £84. But the rule against the purchase of fiction was not rescinded until 1873 in which year also the *Times* was first taken in. The total number of volumes in the Linen Hall Library now exceeds 25,000, including a special collection of locally printed books. It appears that the earliest Belfast-printed book dates from 1694."

—*Acad.*, Apr. 6.

BOOKS accessible to students; tables showing the year's additions to bound books to college libraries. (In *N. Y. Evening post*, June 26, 1889.)  $\frac{3}{4}$  col.

BOSTON Athenæum, The; our great proprietary library. (In *Boston herald*, June 23, 1889.) 3 cols., ll.

BRYDON, J. M., *archit.* Public Library, Chelsea. Elevation, 2 sections, and 2 plans. (In *Building news*, June 7, 1889.)

Provides for 105,020 vols. The news-room, lending library, boys' room, and librarian's room are on the ground floor. Fresh air will be admitted by Tobin's tubes in the side walls, especially in the news-rooms.

The cove under the ceilings of the news-room will be used as an extract shaft for vitiated air, communicating with Boyle's air-pump ventilators on the roofs of the bookstore rooms above.

CÈRE, Émile. La réforme des bibliothèques. (Pages 552–579 of v. 54 of *La nouvelle revue*, Oct. 1888.)

CHELSEA (Eng.) Free P. L. competition; three premiated designs by J. M. Brydon, E. W. Mountford, and Leach & Baggallay, with an alternative design by Leach & Baggallay; elevation and plans. (In the *Builder*, June 8.)

DOES IT PAY? (In Davenport [Iowa] *Gazette*, May 5, 1889.)

"Does it pay to run a library in the interest of novel-reading? The question is a fair one. It is called out by an examination of the printed report of the Davenport Library Association. In it appears the statement that the total drawings of books for the year ending April 30 was 5906. The novels and the books classed as juveniles are properly under the common head of 'fiction.' Of these the reading amounted to 5020—leaving the total of all other drawings at only 886. Does it pay to run a library as a public benefaction on such a flimsy basis? No one will pretend to say that novel-reading to a reasonable extent in proper channels is hurtful, nor will any sane person argue that novel-reading to the extent indicated by the figures of the report is salutary. No one, perhaps, will seriously maintain that it is worth the while of able-bodied business men and women, acting as trustees, to devote their thought and energy to floating an institution so very largely devoted to story-reading."



The LIBRARY record. Worcester, Mass., June, 1889. 8 p. l. Q.

Published monthly by E. R. Fiske, 50 cts. a year. Contains 1 p. of "Books added to the Free P. L." and "Books added to the Mechanics' Assoc. L." reviews, literary items, and advertisements, especially advertisements.

SLY literary thieves. (In N. Y. *Journal*, June, 30, 1889.) 1 col.

THIEVING at libraries. (In N. Y. *News*, July 7, 1889.) 1 col.

#### REPORTS.

*Battersea P. L.* (2d rpt.) Added 703, total 5357; issued 46,403 in 7 months. These figures are for the Lammis Branch, which alone is opened. The central library, to contain 10,000 v. for issue and 5000 for reference, will probably be opened early in 1890.

*Belfast (Me.) F. P. L.* (1st rpt.) In lib. 2843; home use 17,411; lib. use 452 (fict. 61% of the whole). E. Maltby Pond, libn.

*Bridgeport (Conn.) P. L.* Added 1558; total 17,287; home use 74,335 (fict. and juv. 62,234). lib. use 15,277.

*Cambridge (Mass.) P. L.* The library was dedicated June 29. Col. Frances T. Parker presented the deed of gift from F. H. Rindge, and the keys to the city; the mayor, Hon. H. H. Gilmore, acknowledged the gift and transferred the keys to the trustees, for whom their President, Hon. S. L. Montague, returned thanks. Remarks were then made by C. W. Eliot, President of Harvard College, and Messrs. S. S. Green and T. W. Higginson.

The *Gilttrap Free Library*, Newark, Eng., is illustrated in the *Graphic* and in the *Ill. London news*, June 15 (Am. ed.). But, strange to say, the two papers have chosen two entirely different buildings. — *W. K. Stetson*.

*Gloversville (N. Y.) F. L.* Added 590; total 8403; issued 39,260. Not a volume has been lost in the nine years since the library was founded.

*Janesville (Wis.) F. L.* Added 542; total 5015; issued 18,338. "The money appropriated for the purchase of books has been used primarily to supply a most urgent call for books of reference. There is now a very creditable collection of encyclopedias and miscellaneous books of reference arranged on a table by themselves and open to all who choose to avail themselves of their use."

*London L.* 48th ann. meeting. Mr. Gladstone in the chair. Issued 115,607. The number of members, the receipts, and the number of books added, all show larger totals than in any former year.

*Merc. L. Assoc. of N. Y.* Added 7315; total 223,544; issued 158,683, an increase of 7369 (fict. 58.89%); users 5246; income \$30,349; spent for books and binding \$5221.98. "The demands of our members for fresh and new books in all the departments of literature have been uniformly

and very fairly met. As a matter of course, the demand for works of fiction very largely predominates, and this requires the purchase of a number of copies of each book. The most notable purchases of this class have been 140 copies of 'Robert Elsmere,' by Mrs. Humphry Ward, and 62 copies of 'John Ward, preacher,' by Margaret Deland. Of 'The American commonwealth,' 35 copies (70 volumes) were purchased; of 'Motley's correspondence,' 26 copies (52 volumes), and of 'Jonathan and his continent,' 36 copies. On Saturday, April 13, four publishing houses in this city and one in Boston each advertised a new book. These books were by five different authors. An order was given for 115 copies of them. They were received at the library, catalogued, stamped, made ready for circulation, and before the library closed on the day they were published all but two of them were in the hands of our readers."

*Newark (Eng.) Free L.* View. (On p. 558 of *London Graphic*, May 25.)

*N. Y. State L.* Mr. Dewey reports for six months: "Building. — Not a little work still remains undone. We have, however, moved all the books of the law and general library into their new quarters, where they are safely stored.

"Books. — We have not begun actual buying, but have merely kept up the old lines. With October 1 our more than doubled appropriation will enable us to put in operation the new system which has been worked out. We have arranged to buy serials, American books and foreign books from three thoroughly responsible firms, who will serve us better and at very substantial reductions from the prices heretofore made.

"Staff. — Resignations amounting to \$2800 a year have taken effect, but by reorganizing, re-districting, and systematizing the work, we shall be able to accomplish quite as much as before, and save these salaries, or \$2800 a year. This sum will help materially in paying the new employes which our enlarged quarters and new facilities make absolutely necessary. The mere safety of the books requires a much larger force in our over twenty rooms than sufficed in the three old ones. As the \$10,000 in the Supply bill for meeting these expenses was vetoed, it becomes necessary for the committee to ask the Legislature in January to reappropriate this sum. Otherwise it will be necessary to stop much of our important work and to close a part of the library rooms.

"In the general library the large books and one-half of the main alphabet of octavos and smaller books, making about 40,000 volumes, have been given their proper places in a scheme of about 5000 topics. All these have been inventoried and a shelf-list and a subject catalogue in book-form have been written. In the law department the inventory is now progressing.

"Use. — No effort whatever has been made (nor is it really practicable till our rooms are completed and our books thrown into a proper classification) to increase the use of the library."

*N. Y., Y. M. C. A.* Added 1001; total 36,464; issued 39,842.

*North Adams (Mass.) P. L.* (5th rpt.) Added 974; total 8392; issued 56,160 (fict. and juv. 46,866).

*Norwich (Eng.) F. L.* Added 1492; total 18,026; issued 86,860 (fiction 75.06 %).

*Oakland (Cal.) F. L.* Added 2105; total 14,468; circulated 70,815 (fict. and juv. 55,924); borrowers 9696; receipts \$21,140.18; expenditures \$13,123.58.

*Philadelphia (Pa.) Apprentices' L.* Added 812; circulated 96,543; receipts \$8269.14; expenditures \$7828.96.

*Rock Island (Ill.) P. L.* Added 365; total 9478; circulated 21,194; receipts \$2997.94; expenditures \$2990.88.

*Sacramento (Cal.) F. L.* Added 1015; circulated 40,541; receipts \$9816.64; expenditures \$5336.33.

More books were issued for the time the library was open than in any previous year but one. The percentage of fiction was less than in any previous year. The attendance in the reading rooms was as large as in previous years — perhaps larger.

*Springfield (Mass.) City L. Assoc.* Added 3980; total 68,776; home use 149,688 (fict. and juv. 114,386); persons applying for books of reference 11,370, using 18,594 vols.; mag. and reviews read in the building 19,649. The librarian pleads for a new building.

*Young Men's Assoc., Albany, N. Y.* (2 years.) Added 1120; issued 78,324; extra books drawn at 2 cts. a day, 2102.

"The magazines loaned at the desk have circulated freely, and the receipts from the charge of two cents *per diem* for their use has somewhat exceeded their cost.

"The monthly appropriation of \$20 set aside for expenditure by the librarian for such books as could be advantageously obtained at special sales, and for such other publications as might be from time to time needed to immediately supply pressing demands, has proven an agreeable provision, and one tending to lessen the inevitable dissatisfaction of members who follow peculiar or advanced lines of study and research. In the event of a more liberal expenditure of money for new books during the coming year, it would seem that this appropriation might profitably be increased to \$30."

The President says in the 1st report: "Another question that has had its annual airing is the one of 'Sunday opening.' Early in the year it found its champion, and he the opportunity to plead its cause. But, as usual, no amount of eloquence could change the old-time verdict — 'No opening.' This, undoubtedly, is a matter that will confront the new administration, and one that will, in my opinion, bear considerable discussion. Public opinion, I believe, to-day strongly favors such a change. 'Much that was heterodox twenty years ago has become orthodox to-day.' Men who, twenty years ago, would have consistently fought any such question would to-day strongly urge a

trial of a plan for opening the library on Sunday. Let the library remain open during hours not devoted to church service, and I believe the Association will be benefited thereby."

#### NOTES.

*Augusta (Me.) L.* The directors are in doubt whether to close the institution or to borrow enough money to keep it open until fall or winter, when it can be made self-supporting through membership subscriptions or by means of public entertainments. The library is now in debt and will need about \$200 to keep it open and free of debt this summer. Its income has been cut off by the interpretation of the law which makes it liable for taxation, and this heavy and unusual expense takes all the ready money which the trustees have been able to allow for the maintenance of the hall.

When the bonds on the present library building are paid off, the library will have a regular income, but until then it must struggle along between small membership fees and the proceeds of public entertainments. Over 7000 volumes and all the magazines of the day, together with the constantly appearing new books, are kept on the shelves and tables. Of late years the exchequer of the library has lacked the funds from the old time fairs, which are now intermitted because the ladies have so many other calls upon their hands and hearts. In this way the library has suffered the actual loss of funds and the regretted diminution of its active supporters.

*Baltimore, Md. Mercantile L.* The Board of Managers have arranged a half yearly subscription to go into effect July 1. By this plan a person can join for six months at a little over half the cost of the yearly subscription. This is done to increase the list of subscribers. It is thought that a person becoming a member and realizing the benefits of the membership will join again at the beginning of the next year. The library is now on a firm basis, and is paying expenses. A work recently begun, and which will prove of great benefit to the patrons of the library, is a card catalogue. So far all the works of fiction and poetry have been catalogued, and the librarian is now at work on biography. It is expected that the entire work will be completed in eighteen months. Then more than 40,000 volumes will have been catalogued. There is a special table kept filled with new books, and all new books of any moment are purchased as soon as published. The files of English, American, French, and German magazines and the world's principal illustrated papers are well kept up. One of the new features of the library is the special fund for French books. This is maintained by a number of persons who are desirous of keeping abreast with current French literature. Whenever a work of any moment is issued in France an agent of the library sends a copy of it to Baltimore at once. These are kept for the subscribers to the fund for a year, after which they are put on the library shelves. The list of subscribers has increased, there having been issued since January 1 last 688 single tickets, 112 family tickets, 51 monthly tickets, and 2 Johns Hopkins tickets.

*Biddeford (Me.) P. L.* The *Standard*, May 16, says: "The present condition of the Public Library is such as to render it practically useless for purposes of reference. Portland has, within the month past, passed an ordinance requiring the taxation of dogs, the proceeds to be applied to the purposes of public education. This would be a fitting manner to aid the educational interests of Biddeford; and no well-bred cur could object to being taxed for such purposes."

*Bristol (Eng.) L. Soc.* "Mr. E. R. Norris Matthews, librarian of the Bristol Museum and Library, has lately disinterred the early registers of the Bristol Library Society, established in 1773 and merged in the present institution in 1855. Here are to be found the list of books borrowed by Southey between 1793 and 1795, when he was living at Bristol and giving lectures on history. Within two years, he is recorded to have taken out no fewer than 37 different works, mostly historical, but including Godwin's "Political Justice," Mary Woolstoncraft's "Rights of women," and Burns' poems. In 1795 the name of Coleridge occurs frequently in conjunction with that of Southey, the friends sometimes borrowing consecutive volumes of the same work."—*Acad.*, Apr. 20.

*Brooklyn L.* A number of people in the Eastern District of Brooklyn are exercised just at present over the discussion that is going on among those members of the Brooklyn Library who live north of Flushing Avenue concerning the report that after the 1st of May the branch of the library which for the last six years has been a resort for the intelligent portion of the community will be discontinued. The library branch has only 10,000 volumes in its library, mostly works of fiction, but its subscribers have the privilege of drawing upon the 90,000 or more volumes in the Montague Street building. The Brooklyn Library proper does not meet its yearly expenses by something like \$2000, and the branch, it is almost needless to say, also runs behind the expense of maintaining it. This deficiency has been met by philanthropical men connected with the institution.

George H. Fisher, when the matter was brought to his notice, said in an interview in the local papers: "Six years ago the Eastern District Library Association sold its library building in South Eighth St., where Phenix Hall now stands, and the various fixtures of the place, for something like \$5000. With this sum invested as a fund the trustees considered a proposition from the Mercantile or Brooklyn Library Association to establish a branch in the Eastern District. It was argued that the trustees would pay the rental of suitable quarters for the branch, and the Brooklyn Library people would furnish the place as a reading-room and pay the expenses incurred in maintaining the rooms. This arrangement has been in force for six years, but with rather unsatisfactory results. The fund has been diminished exactly one-half. At a meeting of the trustees of the fund of the old Eastern District Library Association held in January last a committee was appointed, with George Tompkins as chairman, to make arrangements to keep

the fund intact. This committee, it is understood, has decided hereafter to use only the income on the fund. This will make necessary considerable retrenchment, and it is contemplated to have only a place for the distribution of books."

John Fellows, President of the Eastern District trustees, said it was a settled fact that the reading-room would be discontinued in a month. A small section of the store of a well-known dealer in pianos in Bedford Avenue had been hired, and after May 1 the branch would be removed to that place. Mr. Fellows was inclined to think that there was a lack of interest among the people in regard to the library.

John S. McKeon, another trustee, emphatically declared that the people of the Eastern District lacked public spirit when it came to the question of maintaining an institution such as a library. A public library was a necessity to a community like the Eastern District, but Mr. McKeon did not think it could be supported. Notwithstanding the attitude of the trustees of the old library association, however, the frequenters of the reading-room in Bedford Avenue have reason to believe that their pleasant quarters will be continued, from statements made by the librarian, which are to the effect that Mr. W. A. White, the liberal-minded philanthropist, has expressed an intention of seeing that the Eastern District is kept in possession of a reading-room and library.

*Buffalo (N. Y.) L.*, July 9. Value of library, hotel, and land, \$1,500,000; bonded indebtedness, \$850,000; total income (annual), \$63,000; interest account and expenses, \$48,000; surplus (annual), \$15,000; 1st mortgage bonds, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  per ct., \$600,000; 2d mortgage bonds, 5 per ct., \$250,000; 2d mortgage bonds unsold, \$40,500. The managers of the library ask the community to take these few unsold bonds promptly—within the next three days—so that the nearly completed hotel—the Iroquois—may be opened for business without any unnecessary delay.

*Burlington, Vt. Billings L.* At the levee at the Billings Library June 26, the following despatch, which came too late to be read at the commencement dinner, was read by President Buckham to the assembled company: "To President Buckham: If it will cheer your commencement exercises, you may consider that, on completion of the extension of the Billings Library, I will give \$10,000 for the purchase of new books."  
"FREDERICK BILLINGS."

*Cleveland (O.) P. L.* The inadequacy of present accommodations has caused the Board of Education to authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 in building a three-story brick extension in the rear of the public library.

*Greenville (S. C.)* is to form a library association named The Perry Library, after ex-Governor B. F. Perry, the books to be kept in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A.

*Kearney, Neb.* The Library Committee of the Chamber of Commerce met June 23. It was stated that no action had been taken previous to this time for the reason that certain parties had proposed to give a handsome amount toward a

permanent building on condition that a like amount was raised by the citizens. After discussion the committee decided to immediately begin the work of canvassing for subscriptions for a fund to serve as a nucleus for the library. It is desired that the subscription shall be a popular one, and that all the people who will receive the benefits of such an institution shall contribute their mite toward starting it.

*Kingston, N. Y.* "The employés of the cigar factory of this city are at work raising a fund with which to form a circulating library to be free to all the working women in this city. So far about \$500 has been raised."

*Macon (Ga.) P. L.* The plans for the new building have been submitted. There have been collected cash subscriptions to a considerable amount, the \$10,000 bonds issued by the association have all been sold at their par value, and everything is in readiness for the work to commence.

*Massachusetts.* Four towns, namely, Washington, in the county of Berkshire; Seekonk, in the county of Bristol; Gosnold, in the county of Dukes, and Millis, in the county of Norfolk, make no return of either libraries or reading rooms. In 1885 there were 2371 libraries, of which 703 were secular and 1668 were religious libraries. In 1875 there were 1875 libraries, of which 507 were secular and 1368 were religious, showing an increase during the decade of 496 libraries, the increase for the secular libraries being 196 and for religious libraries 300. Considering the number of books contained in the libraries in 1885, there is a grand total of 5,876,856, of which 4,542,072 are bound books, 1,298,729 are pamphlets, and 36,045 are manuscripts. This number of books is contained in 2368 libraries, three libraries making no return for this inquiry. In 1875 the total number of books was returned as being 3,482,658, of which 2,771,012 were bound books, the balance being returned as pamphlets, including manuscripts. As regards the value of books, 2353 libraries make a return in 1885, the value of books in these libraries being placed at \$5,888,952. In 1875 there was no return for the value of books. Of the 2371 libraries in the State, but 200 make a return as to endowment funds, the total amount of the endowment funds being \$3,281,486. In 1875 the total value (in gold) of the endowment funds was returned at \$1,102,701, the number of libraries making such a return not being stated. The annual income from endowment funds is given in 1885 as being \$164,221, and applies to 203 libraries. The total annual income from endowment funds in 1875, reduced to a gold basis, was \$82,713. For buildings owned, but 89 libraries make a return in 1885, the value of the buildings being stated as \$2,189,650. The value of the library buildings owned in 1875 was (in gold) \$2,548,687. The total value of the annual rentals paid in 1885 for library buildings which are hired is \$20,005, this amount being returned by 83 libraries. No information was given in 1875 as to buildings hired.

The reading-rooms are a special educational feature. There are 194 reading-rooms returned

in 1885, as against 111 in 1875. Of the reading-rooms returned in 1885, 172 are secular and 22 are religious; in 1875 the secular reading-rooms numbered 104 and the religious reading-rooms 7.

*Milwaukee, Wis.* The South Side Promoting Association intend, if possible, to secure the new public library building for their division of the city. But the Republicans of the West Side have voted that no candidate for any office shall have our support unless he pledges himself to advocate a West Side location for all public buildings."

*Minneapolis (Minn.) P. L.* With the intention of making the new public library valuable as a depository of works of reference upon Northwestern history, Herbert Putnam, the librarian, has issued a circular requesting that all who have material in the shape of books, pamphlets, papers, and the like communicate with him with reference to putting them on file in the library for public use. He especially desires donations of files of newspapers — even parts of years to fill gaps in present collections — and city and State documents.

*Newark (N. J.) F. L. A.* At the time the lease of the West Park Street building to the Free Library Association was made, an arrangement was entered into by which the Free Library was to have the use of the books of the Newark Library. By some misunderstanding, this arrangement miscarried. The representatives of the Free Library visited the rooms of the Newark Library and began selecting and stamping such books as they desired. This was objected to on the part of the Newark Library Association, as it was understood that the Free Library people were to take all the books of the Newark Association as a loan, and that the Newark Society could not submit to having its property stamped and mutilated by the Free Library Association in the manner that was being carried out. The result was that the arrangement fell through, the Free Library people claiming that they must, in order to protect themselves, have the books properly stamped. The Free Library Commissioners also wanted the value of the books fixed so that there could be no dispute about the wear and tear or the loss of any of the books between the two associations, should the Newark Association wish to recall the loan.

Negotiations continued without any result, the Free Library Commissioners finally offering the Newark Association \$6000 for 10,000 volumes, the Librarian of the Free Library to have the right to make a selection of the books and take such as he wanted. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Newark Association, the matter was discussed at some length, and it was finally decided to have an appraiser appointed and the value of the books fixed, and the Committee on Library was authorized to sell the 10,000 volumes proposed for \$6000 to the Free Library Association if in their opinion the appraisement would warrant it.

*Newark, N. J.* A correspondent of the *Call* (July 21) blames the trustees of the Library Association and of the Free Library for not amalga-



inating the two libraries. "The Newark Library Association was chartered by the New Jersey Legislature in 1847 for the purpose of providing a library for the people of our city. It was never an aggressive institution, and how it has managed to hold together so long is a wonder to me. It has been moribund for years. Now the life has left the body and nothing remains except the bare bones of a library, some real estate, and some books, but no vitality. It long ago came under the control of a few very amiable and agreeable gentlemen, who met at the library building occasionally, but for many years they left the whole management of the institution to another gentleman of most estimable character, who had no fitness for the position and no appreciation of the wants of a great public institution. It may be said that it failed because it was not properly supported by the public. I assert that it failed because it was not properly supported by the management. The public is largely and heartily interested in the establishment of a library which shall be of real use in our city, and I need only cite the enormous vote on the question when it came up on the formation of a Free Library two years since.

"It was announced last fall that the Library Association had leased the Park Street building to the Free Library, and had made an arrangement by which the Free Library should have the use of their books. This action was reported to the stockholders' meeting in January, and a resolution there adopted approving the whole arrangement. This went on swimmingly until the librarian of the Free Library was discovered one day marking the books with the Free Library stamp. The latent jealousy between the two boards flamed at once, a rupture ensued, and since that time these two bodies of public spirited trustees have been chaffering and dickering over the remains of the deceased establishment. On June 6 the Free Library trustees offered to purchase 10,000 volumes from the old association for \$6000. This proposition was not replied to for six weeks; then it was accepted, and when the letter of acceptance reached the Free Library trustees, it was found that they had changed their minds.

"The old library has many hundreds of volumes in its collection which are of great value on the shelves of a library. They all bear the indelible stamp of the Newark Library Association, and because of this would fetch but little more than waste paper if sent to the auction-room.

"Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these books have been donated to the library by their former owners. With what idea, let me ask? That they might become the subject of bargain and sale? or was it because the donors wished the people of Newark to have access to volumes which they esteemed, and that these volumes might be preserved from destruction for the benefit of our people? Certainly the latter, and whatever legal rights this corporation has acquired in accessions of this character they certainly have no moral right to divert them from the use to which they were devoted by the donors.

"I propose two ways of accommodating all the difficulties.

"1. Let all the stockholders in the old library donate all their shares to the city, in trust for the Free Library. This would be generous and public-spirited.

"2. The other plan is this. The old association owes from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Let them mortgage the Park Street property for this sum and then turn over the whole property, including the books, to the Free Library upon condition that they pay the interest on the mortgage, and perhaps a small sum beside for a sinking fund with which to eventually meet the principal."

*New York.* The City Mission is undertaking a new field of labor this year in the establishment of swimming baths in the densely populated portions of the city. This has been undertaken at the suggestion of a number of clergymen and missionaries among the poorer classes of the city. The feature of these baths will be that they will be open the year round, cheerful reading-rooms and libraries being added in connection with them as soon as the funds contributed will warrant the addition.

The *N. Y. Mercantile Library* makes a creditable showing at the Paris Exposition. Librarian W. T. Peoples has sent on a number of large heavy cardboards showing at a glance the work of the institution.

*N. Y. State L.* "On April 1 we began the work of arrangement; about 40,000 volumes have already been thrown into new classification. With October, when our new appropriation for books of \$15,000 becomes available, we shall begin on the third group. With this increase from \$7000 to \$15,000 for books, serials, and binding, we shall make a strong effort to add those books that will be most useful to those who have a right to use the State library. To this end blank recommendation slips are already printed, on which any reader is invited to recommend the addition of books, serial or pamphlet, which he needs. We believe that it is better to buy a good book that some one wishes to use at once than to buy a better book which may stand on our shelves for a decade without being once opened. The new books adapted to this library will be added and made accessible on the week of publication. All those specially interested, if properly introduced, can have the opportunity each week of inspecting the case of any new books sent for examination and selection. All periodicals will be available as early at the library for personal subscribers and will no longer be held back till a volume is complete for binding. The motto for future additions will thus be: 'The books, serials, and pamphlets which will be practically most useful shall be on the shelves at the earliest possible hour.'

"A district messenger and telegraph call box with tariff books enable any reader to leave and pay for messages at the desk with certainty that they will be despatched as soon as possible. Car's, postage, and special delivery stamps can be bought, together with pens, pencils, note-books, and paper, for the wants of which a reader is likely to be seriously inconvenienced, if he must go outside to replenish his supply. These little things are sold at actual cost. If given away they



would cause waste, and if sold at any profit they would create criticism. Indeed, careful study will show that these little conveniences, which add so much to the comfort and working capacity of a reader who spends much time in the library, really cost but little except the good-will of the attendants.

MELVIL DEWEY."

*N. Y. Y. M. C. A. L.* Jan. 1, 1888, there was an exhibition of rare books, incunabula, etchings, works on decoration, architecture, and costume; manuscripts and fac-similes of manuscripts, illustrations of plants and birds. Young men to the number of several hundred witnessed the exhibition, and many expressed the great pleasure they received.

Paradoxical as it may seem, the larger the library the greater the need for increasing it. There are more classes of books to be kept abreast of the times, and the larger and more varied constituency of a large library make greater draughts on its different departments. With the growth of this library have come inquiries for books that would never have been sought for here ten years ago.

The percentage of fiction was less than last year, being only 11.8 per cent., while there has been nearly 50 per cent. increase in the number of the books drawn relating to the fine arts. Those who use the works in this department are largely young men—students, and those employed in the various arts of decoration, architecture, designing, etc.

Mr. R. B. Poole writes under date of Aug. 1: "The Young Men's Christian Association building, of New York City, took fire on Sunday evening, July 28, and suffered serious loss from fire and water. The library of 37,000 volumes had a narrow escape, but suffered no injury. The fire was confined to the west side of the building; the library is on the 3d floor, southeast corner, and was separated from the burning elevator by a well the space of about 15 feet. The necessity of a fire-proof building for this valuable collection will be more than ever impressed upon us on account of this happy escape. Before the fire, preparations had been commenced to wire the library for the introduction of the electric light. The work is going forward, and in a few days it is expected that we shall have the library illuminated with the incandescent electric light. The system employed is the Westinghouse alternating, and the light is supplied by the United States Illuminating Company."

*Paterson (N. J.) F. P. L.* At the trustees' meeting, July 20, Superintendent Brands, of a special committee—the other member being Librarian Winchester—appointed to visit libraries in other cities with a view of determining the best methods of fitting up our own, made a report of the visits of the committee to libraries in Albany, N. Y., Worcester, Boston, Cambridge, and Salem, Mass., and Providence, R. I., during which much information of value was received. The meeting closed with a discussion of the best methods of furnishing and shelving the new library building. The general feeling seemed to favor the use of stacks of shelving made of hollow iron piping, such as is employed at Buffalo, N. Y.

*Philadelphia. The Academy of Natural Sciences*, whose librarian was at the St. Louis Conference, and took part in the excursion, has declined the proposition made to it by the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, May 7, to transfer the institution to a site on the domain of the University.

"The project submitted was that several great independent institutions, administered in harmony for the common purposes of the increase and diffusion of knowledge" be established in close proximity to the University, and thus lead "to the development there of a grand centre of scientific and educational activity," which would, according to the conjecture of the Provost, "vastly increase the dignity of each institution, and render its work more economical and effective."

*Piqua, O.* At a meeting of the Board of Education, on July 6, the Library Committee made a formal report, stating, among other things, that the Board had the legal right to appropriate \$150 a year for library purposes, and in addition could use the money obtained from non-resident pupils for such purpose.

*Quincy (Ill.) P. L.* Opened June 24. In the first two weeks issued 779 cards. *There is no age limitation*, and a boy of 6 got the first book, and signed his own name for it.

*Salem (Mass.) P. L.* The library is now virtually completed. The Bertram mansion was presented to the city for a free public library, in a communication from the heirs, dated Dec. 1, 1887. On Dec. 5 the communication was referred to a special committee of the City Council. On Dec. 27 the committee reported in favor of its acceptance, submitting a deed conveying the property to the city. On the same night the gift was formally accepted by the concurrent action of the two branches. Upon application to the Legislature an Act was passed authorizing the city to accept the deed of gift and carry out its provisions.

There were several conditions imposed by the donors. One was that the free library should be managed by a board of six trustees to be appointed for life by the Mayor and City Council, while the Mayor of the city was to be the chairman *ex officio*. Another was that \$25,000 should be raised by subscription or otherwise to constitute a permanent fund to be placed in the hands of trustees, the income to be expended in books or material, at their discretion. A third was that the city should appropriate a sum sufficient to meet the expenditures of altering the building, and an annual appropriation to meet the current expenses of the library.

The trustees came into possession of the building in April, 1888, and very soon after they began to consider the matter of necessary alterations to adapt the building to its new use. These were begun something more than a year ago, and about the same time measures were set on foot for the purchase of books. The arrangement and classification of these has been going on since, for the most part, in rooms in the Kinsman block. Mr. F. P. Hill, the first librarian chosen, began the work, and it was finished under the direction of Mr. Gardner M. Jones, who filled Mr. Hill's place

from the time of the latter's resignation to take charge of a larger library.

*San Francisco Merc. L.* Edmund Tausky, who was appointed to prepare an argument against consolidation with the Mechanics' Institute, and in favor of rebuilding, treats the matter at great length. He says in substance:

"Consolidation is a misnomer. It cannot be accomplished while the Mechanics' Institute retains its present organization and constitution, and it does not offer, and is not likely to offer, to change these. The proper term to use is 'donation.'

"The proposition must, therefore, be squarely met—whether this association is ready to make a donation of all its property, valued at from \$225,000 to \$250,000, to the Mechanics' Institute, which means the practical extinction of this association and the death-knell to its existence as a public library.

"The designs and objects of the Mechanics' Institute, as set forth in its constitution, are much broader than those of the Mercantile Library. This association possesses privileges and advantages that the Mechanics' Institute have not. 1. The existence of this association may be perpetual, while that of the Mechanics' Institute continues only for fifty years from its organization. 2. The objects of this association are limited purely to the establishment and maintenance of a public library. 3. The integrity of the Mechanics' Institute must remain inviolate—that is to say, it must retain its organization unimpaired, and it can only receive the property of this association as a donation, and manage and control it only under its charter and under its name.

"We must therefore seriously consider whether we have a right—a moral right—leaving out of consideration legal power—to make such a donation upon any terms which the Mechanics' Institute can possibly offer. We should recognize the full import of the words 'public library.' We should well consider its objects and aims; its capacity for accomplishing good; for the dissemination of knowledge, advancement, learning, and for affording literary entertainment to the community in which we live, for generations to come.

"The Mechanics' Institute makes the very generous proposition to accept our property, valued at nearly a quarter of a million dollars, and in consideration therefor offers to assume our debts, which do not exceed \$10,000, and to receive our members into full membership.

"So far as our library proper is concerned it is far superior in many respects to that of the Mechanics' Institute. During ten years, when this association was flourishing, many rare and valuable books were purchased, which are no longer obtainable, and which are upon our shelves. Our library surpasses that of the Mechanics' Institute in many particulars. In the single instance of late publications can the Mechanics' Institute claim advantages over us, but that is a deficiency on our part that can be remedied in time.

"A desirable property can be purchased, and a suitable building erected, at a cost of from \$125,000 to \$175,000, depending upon location and

size of property. For this amount property can be purchased and a building erected that will net a rental to the association of from \$600 to \$750 per month, and leave it commodious quarters, free of rent, for its own use.

"Sufficient can be realized from the sale of the present site to meet the expenses of removal, cost of new premises and construction of a new building.

"In the opinion of your committee, there can be little doubt that upon a removal of the library to a location that will meet the growth and tendency of improvement in the city, and the needs of its members, the association will increase in membership and be established upon a self-supporting basis."

*Sioux City, Iowa.* The committee of the City Council of the city has made the following report: Your Committee on Public Buildings beg leave to report that they have been investigating the matter of the erection of a library building, said building to contain office-room for all city officers. From the investigation they have become satisfied that arrangements can be made for the erection of such building at the corner of Douglas and Sixth Streets, upon the property heretofore purchased for library purposes, the plan of the erection of such building being similar to the plan adopted in the construction of the water-works system; the transfer of the property at the corner of Douglas and Sixth Streets, to an independent corporation, who will erect the building according to such plans as may be provided by the city under a contract with the city to rent said property at a given rental per annum for city purposes and an agreement to levy a certain tax per annum; with a contract from said corporation to convey said property to the city at any time the city may desire after the completion of said building."

*Staten Island Academy.* In 1886, the Arthur Winter Memorial Library of general literature was founded by W. Winter and E. Winter, of New Brighton, to commemorate their son Arthur, who, until his death in Jan., 1886, had been a student of the Academy. The collection, numbering several thousand and increasing every year, has already become one of the rarest and most attractive that could be placed at the disposal of students.

The library is carefully classified, catalogued by the card system, and in charge of a librarian by whom the wants and tastes of the different classes are studied.

During the same year there was established in the school by the late Mrs. Katherine Fish Winslow, of St. Paul's Parish, Stapleton, a most extensive "Reference Library," containing all the more important dictionaries, gazetteers, encyclopædias, and many hundreds of books on science, history, etc., selected with regard to the needs of teachers and scholars in the various classes. Large and frequent gifts from the original donor and from other sources render it now a most complete and useful factor in the work of the institution.

Visitors and book-lovers especially are cordially welcomed to the libraries on any school day from

9 to 3, and on Wednesday the librarian will be present till 6 p.m.

*Trenton, N. J. Union L.* The library now contains about 7000 volumes, which are classified into the various departments of history, fiction, biography, science, etc., and the cases plainly labelled. Files are kept of the daily papers of Trenton, Philadelphia, and New York, the standard magazines and reviews, and new books are being added as fast as the limited income of the association will allow.

*Worcester (Mass.) P. L.* For several years the directors of the library have reminded the City Council that the library building is overcrowded and a new one is imperatively needed. Last year the Council gave heed to the wants of the library in this respect. Land was bought and plans were prepared under the direction of the Committee on Public Buildings for a building at an estimated cost, exclusive of book-stack, plumbing, warming, and lighting apparatus, and other equipment and furniture, of about \$75,000. The plans were approved by the library directors, and were examined and readopted by this year's Committee on Public Buildings. New estimates made the cost of the building completed, with all equipments and furniture, \$127,000. \$40,000 had in the meantime been appropriated for expenditure on the building this year. Then the subject was referred to the Finance Committee. The plans now under consideration have sometimes been referred to in the recent discussion of them as "the trustees' plans," meaning, apparently, that the directors of the library produced or are in some way responsible for them. But that is a mistake. The Committee on Public Buildings last year, having been instructed to obtain plans, requested the librarian, Mr. S. S. Green, with the assistance of Mr. Stephen C. Earle, the architect, and Mr. Peck, the Superintendent of Public Buildings, to prepare plans for the committee's adoption. This request was complied with, and the plans were approved by the library directors, their approval being made necessary by the terms of the late Dr. Green's gift to the city. The Committee on Public Buildings then adopted the plans and reported them to the City Council.

#### FOREIGN NOTES.

*Bodleian L.* The lending of books is not entirely given up, for the Convocation, in whose hands it now lies, has lately voted unanimously to lend Ms. Canonici Ital. 129 to the National Library at Florence for the use of Prof. Rajna, on request of the Italian Government.

*Brussels. Bibl. Royale.* This library has long had a large number of newspapers, mostly Belgian, piled away here and there and suffering from dust and damp. It has now resolved to arrange them in a large basement having eight windows on each side, with a lift to take volumes up into the reading-room. *Polybiblion* urges that Belgian journals be taken regularly (most of these came from chance purchases and gifts), and that a subject-index should be prepared (*repertoire idéologique*).

*Hamilton (Ont.) P. L.* The board has accepted the plans of architect William Stewart for the new library building. The plans show a building of the modern Romanesque style, two stories high, with a basement; also a tower at the west side, and a ventilating-shaft on the east side. It is to be 117 feet high from the ground to the iron terminal at the top of the tower, and 71 feet to the top of the front gable. There is a double entrance—two doors—with a gas lamp on either side. One of the doors leads to the library and the other one leads through the tower upstairs. Over the entrance is the inscription, "Hamilton Public Library." Steps leads up to the front entrance. At the right, on entering the vestibule, is the gentlemen's reading-room, which is 63 feet long and 26 feet wide. On the left of the entrance is the room for the ladies and reference-room. The library is in the rear, passing through the corridor. The upper portion of the building is not laid out. The heating and ventilation will be of the most improved description. The estimated cost of the building is \$24,000.

*London.* Steps are being taken to establish a branch in London of an association which bears the name of "Bibliothèque Internationale des Œuvres des Femmes," recently started in Paris under the patronage of the Queen of Roumania. The object of the association is not very clearly defined in the original prospectus. It proposes to collect and "give publicity to" the literary productions of women, and, apparently, to provide a salary for an irremovable librarian.

*London, Eng. British Museum.* The authorities of the Museum do not propose to be any longer annoyed by persons visiting the library merely to enjoy themselves in reading the new novels. They have prohibited the issue to readers of novels published within five years, unless such works are required for special reasons approved by the Superintendent. The "special reason" given by a young curate for asking for a complete set of Zola's novels, was that he was desirous of preaching a sermon against them, for which a preliminary study was absolutely necessary.

*Paris Library of Books by Women.* We hear from Paris of a new library to be established there in which only books written by women are to be kept on the shelves. Not long ago there was a project for getting up a library of that kind in this city. It was found, after full inquiry, that at least 10,000 volumes by female authors could be procured in short time. In the list that was made there were books in every department of literature. About one-half of the whole were novels, but the other half contained the titles of works upon many branches of science, upon metaphysics, history, philosophy, theology, literary criticism, and education, besides dramas, epics, lyrics, and other poems. We do not think it would be advisable for women to confine their reading to books written by other women, any more than it is advisable for men to neglect the valuable literature that has been created by the ladies. It is desirable that the works of both feminine and masculine authors

should be found in our libraries. At the same time it would be interesting to see a special collection in this city of all the volumes that have emanated from female minds since the days of Sappho.

*Toronto (Can.) P. L.* The Board are thinking of forming night classes during the winter months, to impart practical scientific instruction to the artisan and working classes. The City Council has appropriated \$2000 for that purpose. Mr. Bell's offer to erect buildings to be used for a branch library and reading-room was accepted.—*N. Y. Sun.*

#### PRACTICAL NOTES.

*Lift for call slips.* I have been asked to describe our call-slip-lift. When in August, 1880, we moved the delivery-room to a floor beneath the one on which most of our books are, it became necessary to send up orders and to send down books quickly. An ordinary lift 30 x 39 cm., overweighted 4 lbs., answered well enough for books. But this was too clumsy a machine to use for sending up a scrap of paper. Moreover it took much of the attendants' time to pull it up. By its side a moulding covered a space 15.3 cm. wide and 5.5 deep. This I used to receive two boxes running side by side, the cord that connected them passing over a small wheel at the top. The boxes are 6 x 5 x 24 cm., of copper; for thin wood, which I used at first, soon beat to pieces. They balance; to move them I use iron weights 1.2 cm. square and 12 cm. long. A weight is always kept in each box. If the attendant below wishes to send up a call-slip, she puts it in the box, takes out the weight, and gives no further attention to the matter. The weight in the upper box immediately pulls that down and raises its fellow. An attendant above hears the noise, takes out the slip, and puts in a weight, leaving the lift ready for the next order.

To send down an order two weights are put in the upper box. The weights taken out below are sent up in mass on the book-lift. To lessen the noise the iron weights are covered with rubber cloth, and the copper box is lined with wash-leather. A thick piece of rubber on top of each box deadens the shock of stopping. The boxes do not quite touch the bottom. By the side of the lift there is a speaking tube. It would have been better if we could have made the boxes half as large again, large enough to take in letters without folding; but there was no more space to be had.

C: A. CUTLER.

*How to Make Labels Stick to Metal.*—Paper pasted, gummed, or glued on to metal, especially if it has a bright surface, usually comes off on the slightest provocation, leaving the adhesive material on the back of the paper with a surface bright and slippery as ice. To overcome this the *Scientific American* suggests that the metal be first dipped into a strong and hot solution of washing soda, and afterwards scrubbed perfectly dry with a clean rag. Onion juice is then to be applied to the surface of the metal, and the label pasted and fixed in the ordinary way. It is said to be almost impossible to separate paper and metal thus joined.

#### Librarians.

AXON, W: E. A., has resigned the editorship of the *Manchester quarterly*.

Prof. CHANDLER, who has just died, had privately printed a pamphlet on cheap photographing of mss. by the Bodleian Library authorities in the precincts of the library.—*Ath.*, p. 633.

CRUNDEN—EDMONDSON.—On June 13, at the residence of Col. S. E. Edwards, Newark, New Jersey, by the Rev. Stephen H. Granberry, Frederick M. Crunden, of St. Louis, Mo., to Kate, youngest daughter of the late E. J. Edmondson, of Heaton Norris.

CUTLER, Louise Salome, takes charge of the Aguilar Free Library, N. Y., on Sept. 1.

DYER, J: N., for 27 years librarian and actuary of the Mercantile Library of St. Louis, died July 3. The work of moving the library to the new building, in January last, was the immediate occasion of the illness which resulted in his death, although the nervous strain to which he has been subjected since the new structure was conceived was the real cause. While the books were transferring he broke down. Partially recovering, he returned to his duties, and, after the work of arranging the new library was completed, he again became ill and was confined to his bed for several weeks. In March he grew much worse, and it was thought at that time that his end was near, but he again rallied, his strong constitution carrying him through. Hopes were now entertained of his recovery, and two weeks ago he was removed to his country residence at Pevely, the physicians believing that fresh air and quiet would help to put him on his feet again. Since his removal, however, he grew rapidly worse. He was surrounded in his dying hours by his family and several of his most intimate friends.

Mr. Dyer was a native of Virginia, and went to St. Louis just before the war, when 21 years old. He was appointed librarian in place of Mr. J. W. Johnston in 1862, which office he held to the day of his death. Mr. Dyer did more than any other one man to bring the Mercantile Library to its present position. His life was devoted to the task of enlarging its usefulness. As far back as 1883 he laid before the directors the urgent need of a new building and increased facilities, and he never ceased his efforts in this direction until rewarded by success. He raised a great part of the money necessary to erect the building, and this extra work, added to his regular duties, which he never shirked, gradually wore him out. Mr. Dyer was married shortly after the war to Miss Corinne Chouteau, by whom he has four children, two boys and two girls.

While the present structure was being erected Judge J. C. Normile suggested to the Board of Directors that as a fitting tribute to Mr. Dyer's worth and efforts in behalf of the library, a bust be made of him to ornament the new library. The suggestion was at once acted on, the money raised in a few days, and Mr. Robert Bringhurst, the St. Louis sculptor, selected. On its completion Mr. Dyer, who was a very modest man, ob-



jected to its being placed in the library, and it was accordingly placed in the Art Museum. Now, however, it will become one of the best ornaments of the reading-room.

EDMANDS, John, librarian of the Mercantile Library of Philadelphia, was married June 17 to Miss Ellen E. Metcalfe, of Boston, a city missionary.

GARNETT, Dr. R.: In a notice of vol. 10-18 of Leslie Stephen's "Dictionary of national biography," the *Athenaeum* says: "Dr. Garnett's encyclopædic knowledge is frequently exhibited in these volumes, and he brings much personal experience to bear upon his accounts of his predecessors at the British Museum—for instance, Sir H. Ellis."

JONES, Gardner M., was appointed librarian of the Salem (Mass.) Public Library in May.

RICHARDSON, Rev. Ernest Cushing, late Recorder of the A. L. A.; lately made Ph.D. by Washington and Jefferson College, has separately reprinted from p. 237-248 of Vol. 1 of the Amer. Ch. Hist. Soc. his pamphlet on "The influence of the Golden legend on Pre-Reformation culture, history," a very careful piece of work.

SCHWABE, Count Leo B., b. Sept. 25, about 1814, at his father's country-seat Castle Schaumburg, on the Weser, d. July 19, 1889, at Beaumont, near Boston, Mass. "One of his particular benevolent actions was the establishment of soldiers' libraries. 35 are recorded in his gifts to the government, but besides these there were 17 others; among the list were the Kearney Library at Readville, the Farragut at the Quincy Soldiers' Home, the Wilcox & Stearns, the McPherson at Gallop's Island, and the Joshua Sears Library, the latter being the largest movable one, in charge of the chaplain of the 13th Massachusetts and the 6th Massachusetts."

SCHWARTZ, Jacob, has continued his "The Pharaoh and the date of the exodus" by "The day of the Hebrew exodus from Egypt determined by the Egyptian calendar," in *The theological review*, for July, pp. 35-41.

SOULE, C. C., one of the finance committee of the A. L. A. and trustee of the Brookline P. L., has sold his law book business to the Boston Book Company, organized June 1, 1889, has been elected its President, and will continue in active management.

VAN DYCK, Dr. J. C., the librarian at Sage Library, who has lately been made an L.H.D., has sailed for Italy to stay till September.

WILSON, C. E. The Shah has accepted a Persian poem composed by Mr. Wilson, sub-librarian at the Royal Academy of Arts and lately University Teacher of Persian at Cambridge. It is printed in the *Academy*. The Grand Vazir, in a letter of acknowledgment, has informed Mr. Wilson that the Shah was pleased to express a high opinion of the merits of the poem.

WOODRUFF, Edwin H., of Cornell Univ. Library, had an article in the February *Scribner* on Scott mass.

## Gifts and Bequests.

Cambridge (Mass.) P. L. The new building on Broadway, which the city of Cambridge is to enjoy as the gift of Mr. Frederick H. Rindge, is progressing rapidly, and is expected to be ready for occupancy during the current month. The exterior of the building is now practically complete. The staging which has so long concealed the main entrance is removed and reveals its fine proportions and the exquisite carving upon the pillars. A meeting of many prominent citizens was held on April 1 to take steps for the formation of a permanent book fund.

Charleston, S. C. Mr. S. H. Wilson has presented the Wentworth Street Lutheran Sunday-School with a library of 250 elegant books, in a handsome case, for the use of the pupils.

Great Barrington, Mass. E. P. Woodworth, a prominent citizen, has presented the Free Library with a portrait of himself and a check for \$100. Mr. Woodworth some time ago gave the library \$500.

Harrisburg, Pa. The late Simon Cameron leaves his library and \$5000 to the Young Men's Christian Association as the foundation of a library for journeymen and apprentices.

Manchester (Eng.) F. L. The library of the late Mr. J. Eglington Bailey, F.S.A., of Manchester, which realized over £2600, gave an opportunity for creditable displays of public spirit. Mr. H. Bodington purchased the extensive collection of books on English shorthand, and has presented it to the Manchester Free Library. Messrs. Taylor, Garnett, & Co., the proprietors of the *Manchester guardian*, bought the splendid "Thomas Fuller collection" as a gift to the same institution; and various mss. were obtained for presentation to the Chetham Library.

Memphis, Tenn. Cossitt L. The heirs of the late Frederick H. Cossitt, of New York, have given \$75,000 towards establishing a public library in Memphis. Mr. Cossitt died before he had taken steps to make his desire in regard to a library for Memphis binding on his heirs, but they did not stand upon their legal rights and gave the amount out of their inheritance that Mr. Cossitt intended to donate to the city where he laid the foundation of his wealth. Two other gentlemen have agreed to give \$5000 each if eight men can be found willing to join in making a fund of \$50,000 for the purchase of books.

New York. Ex-School Commissioner William Lummis has presented to the Board of Education a collection of educational works which he wishes to become the basis of an educational library for the use of teachers and the public schools. When a member of the Board Mr. Lummis secured the adoption of a by-law providing for the establishment of such a library in the new building the Board expects to build uptown in a few years. The books of Mr. Lummis' gift number several hundred volumes, and comprise educational works and educational statistics of Boston, Philadelphia, and the leading cities of this country,



also the result and records of England and Continental educational work. They had been gathered by John W. Buckley, and were purchased by Mr. Lummis at the sale a few weeks ago.

*Rutland, Vt.* Mrs. H. H. Baxter, of New York, gives Rutland a Baxter Memorial Library in memory of her husband, Gen. H. H. Baxter. The site and building will cost \$35,000. It will be strictly a reference library, and none of the volumes will be loaned. She will spend \$15,000 in books and such other sums as may be found necessary to complete the various departments and also make provision for its support.

*Southampton (Eng.)* F. L. has just been presented with the books of the late Gen. Gordon.

*Springfield (Mass.) City L. Assoc.* At the annual meeting, May 6, the following letter was read from Mr. G. Walter Vincent Smith:

"... I will bequeath my collection of paintings, water-color drawings, black and white drawings, antique furniture, bronzes, choissonné, enamels, porcelains and ceramics, jades, arms and armor, antique wood carvings; also ivory carvings, antique stuffs of the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries; also bric-à-brac of a varied nature—for the perpetual use of the City of Springfield, either direct to said city, or to the City Library Association, upon the condition named by you, namely: That they shall be provided for in separate rooms from the works donated by others. Having made this collection with great care, and spent much time (over 30 years) in endeavoring to perfect it, I naturally desire it to retain its individuality, and shall permit nothing of my own to be given which would be unworthy of the inspection of intelligent people.

"I will also say that I am sure that Mrs. Smith will bequeath her collection of antique laces, which are quite valuable and at this time very rare to find.

"I also propose to leave a considerable sum of money, the interest of which sum may be used to add to the collection from time to time of such things as may be procured which will serve to increase its value as an educational element in your city.

"I have spent many years in getting these things together, and many of them are fine specimens of their kind, and I am sure that I should find it difficult to secure so many that would meet my own approval had I to commence to-day.

"I shall continue the purchase as I may find things, and hope to make this collection worthy of your city, should your citizens think it worth while to prepare a place for their reception."

It is hardly necessary to say that the offer was gratefully accepted.

*Warren, Mass.* Public-spirited citizens have put their hands in their pockets and subscribed about \$15,000, which will be devoted to erecting a handsome building for public uses. It will comprise a public library upon the first floor and a Town Hall and museum and art gallery on the second story. The building will be erected on Main Street at the corner of Bacon Street. It will be a substantial structure of granite. Two and a half stories in height, with a square tower at the southwest corner, rising to a height of 62 feet.

## Cataloging and Classification.

CARONTI, Andrea. Gli incunaboli della R. Biblioteca Univ. di Bologna; catalogo compiuto e pub. da Alberto Bacchi della Lega e Ludovico Frati. Bologna, Nicola Zanichelli edit., 1889. 16+518 p. 8°. 15 lire.

IGLESIA, Eug. de la. Catalogo de la biblioteca del centro del ejército y de la armada. Madrid, 1889. 12+605 p. 4°. 5 pes.

NORTH ADAMS (Mass.) P. L. Supplement, books added since 1886. N. Adams, 1889. 2 l.+34 p. l. O.

A page of explanations is prefixed, "Do you wish a novel?" "Do you wish a book, *not fiction?*" and so on, with the answers.

U. S. PATENT OFFICE. Official Gazette, supplement containing the revised classification of subjects of invention alphabetically arranged, Jan. 1, 1889. Wash., 1889. 32 p. l. O.

REVUE des questions historiques: tables des tome 21-40, 2<sup>e</sup> série (1887-86). Paris, Victor Palmé, 1889. 8°. 10 fr.

SAN FRANCISCO P. L. Suppl. catalogue of books added since May, 1884. No. 5, 1888. San Fr., 1889. 9+391 p. l. O.

In v. 2 of the issues of the Selden Society, Maitland's "Select pleas in manorial and other seigniorial courts," Mr. P. E. Dove sends out this circular: "I have long been of opinion, in common with many persons whose views must have far more weight than mine, that a leaf of catalogue slips ought to be printed with every book. If this were done, much quite needless expense and trouble might at very small cost be saved, not only to librarians, but also, in these days of rapid accumulation of books, to private individuals. In the present attempt to carry this into practice space has been provided for a catchword, so that the slips may be used even if the headings given are found in some cases unsuitable."

A sheet accompanies this, divided by heavy black lines into 6 slips of standard size. Three are headed "Pleas of the Crown," "Maitland, Frederick William, *editor*," and "Selden Society." Three are left blank. All 6 have a blank upper line 12 mm. wide, on which a heading could be written.

### FULL NAMES.

Jusserand, Jean Adrien Antoine Jules ("English wayfaring life in the Middle Ages," N. Y., 1889). See p. 175 of "Annuaire diplom. et consulaire de la Repub. Franç. pour 1884."—C. H. H.

*Harvard University Library furnishes the following:*

Howard, G. Elliott (Introd. to the local constitutional history of the U. S.).

Pease, Zephaniah Walter. G. Anthony Hough. (New Bedford, Mass., its history, etc., ed. W. Lawton Sayer.)

Pychowska, Lucia Duncan (translator of A. F. Ozanam's "Dante and catholic philosophy").

1. Full name of Lady Blennerhassett, the author of a recent work on Mme. de Staël?

2. Author of "The Venerable Bede, expurgated, expounded, and exposed, by the Prig" (Lond., 1886)?

J. E. PRENTICE,

*Asst. Lib. L. I. Hist. Soc., Brooklyn.*

[1. Lady Charlotte (de Leyden) Blennerhassett. —Eds.]

### Bibliography.

DÍAZ Y PÁRAZ, Nicolas. Diccionario hist., biog., crit., bibliográfico de autores y artistas extremenos ilustres. Madrid, Murillo, 1889. (7) 2 v. 4°, with 59 port. and 148 fac-similes. 50 fr.

DZIATZKO, K., has issued as the 2. Heft of his Sammlung bibliothekswissenschaftlicher Arbeiten (Berlin, Asher), "Beiträge zur Gutenbergfrage, mit e. Lichtdr.-Faksim. d. Helmaspergerschen Notariatsinstrumentes vom 6. Nov. 1455 nach dem Original der k. Univ.-Bibliothek zu Göttingen." (7+89 p. 4 mk.)

EINSLIE, Anton. Die Incunabel-Bibliographie; Anleitung zu einer richtigen und einheitlichen Beschreibung der Wiegendrucke. Wien, österr. Buchhändlerverein, 1889. 32 p. 16°.

*Polybiblion* says that the author "indicates with precision the details which the description of an incunabulum ought to contain. But we find his judgment very severe on the 'Instructions pour la rédaction d'un inventaire des incunables,' published in 1866 in the *Bulletin des bibliothèques*; he accuses them of being incomplete, obscure, and incomprehensible. Yet they were prepared by a man most competent in these matters, M. L. Delisle, and it is only necessary to read them to see that they give all the instructions necessary for the public which they addressed and the object in view."

FISKE, Willard. Bibliog. notices 4: books printed in Iceland, 1578-1844, a 2d suppl. to the British Museum catalogue. [Florence, June, 1889.] 28 p. 1. O.

With "Corrections and additions to Bibl. notices 1" and "Index of names and titles."

GASPARI, Prof. Gae., and PARISINI, Prof. Ferd. Bibliografia della musica; catalogo della biblioteca del liceo musicale di Bologna, edito a cura del municipio di Bologna. Vol. I, disp. 1-3. Bologna, Romagnoli dall' Acqua edit., 1889. 192 p. 8°. L. 3 ll fasc.

JULIUS GLASER; bibliographisches Verzeichniss seiner Werke, Abhandlungen, Gesetzentwürfe, und Reden. Wien, 1889. 3+103 p. + pl. 8°. 3 fr.

HAYN, H. Bibliotheca erotica et curiosa Monacensis; Verzeichniss französ., ital., span., eng., holländ., und neulateinischer Erotica und Curiosa, von welchen keine deutschen Ueberset-

zungen bekannt sind; zusammengestellt auf d. Königl. Hof- u. Staats-Bibliothek zu München, u. mit bibliog. Anmerk. u. Marktpreisen versehen. Berl., 1889. 4+86 p. 8°. 4 m.

INDEX librorum prohibitorum, gedruckt zu Parma 1580. Nach dem einzigen bekannten Exemplare herausg. u. erläutert von F. H. Reusch. Bonn, 1889. 44 p. gr. 8°. 2 m.

NAVARRO, Viola E. Anuario bibliog. de la República Argentina: critica, noticias, catálogo. Año 10, 1887. Buenos-Aires, 1889. 440+97 p. 8°. 8 fr.

MR. J. H. NODAL, editor of the *Manchester city news*, is compiling a bibliography of Ackworth School, as complete a collection as possible of books written by those who were educated there. —*Atk.*, p. 632.

SAHLENDER, P. Uebersicht der i. J. 1887 a. d. Gebiete d. engl. Philologie ersch. Bücher und Aufsätze. 88 pp. added as "Beigabe" to Heft 4 of Bd. 11 of Anglia, Zeitschrift, etc., Halle, 1889.

SIEGISMUND'S Vademecum der ges. Litteratur über Occultismus; alphabet. u. systemat. Zusammenstellung der litterar. Erscheinungen in deutscher Sprache auf dem Gebiete der Mystik, Magie, des thier. Magnetismus, Somnambulismus, Hypnotismus, Spiritismus, Spiritualismus, Psychismus, u. s. w., 1800-88. Berlin, 1889. 96 p. 8°. 3 fr.

TAYLOR, W. L. Bibliography of Peterhead periodical literature. [Privately] repr. from "Scottish notes and queries." 1889. 8+22 p. 8°.

WHEELER, W. A. Explanatory and pronouncing dictionary of the noted names of fiction, 19th ed. with app. by C. G. Wheeler. B. and N. Y., Houghton, 1889. 32+ [2] +440 p. The Appendix to this indispensable book fills p. 399-426 with additional noted names.

### INDEXES.

Indice dei tomi 1-10 (1877-87) dell ARCHIVIO della Società Romana di storia patria, di Giust. Fumagalli. Roma, 1889. 117 p. 8°. 6 l.

BOCH, Prof. Em. Indici delle materie, degli autori, e dei luoghi della sacra scrittura, contenuti nel Trattato della coscienza morale di Antonio Rosmini. Torino, 1889. 76 p. 8°. 80 cent.

Table alphabétique et analytique des matières de la REVUE maritime et coloniale, 1879-88. Paris, L. Baudoin et Cie., 1889. 8°. 3 fr.

Table des matières contenues dans les Mémoires de la SOCIÉTÉ NAT. d'Agriculture de France, tome 89 (1850)-132 (1888), pub. sous la dir. de M. L. Passy. Paris, 1889. 8+103 p. à 2 col. 8°.

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Monthly. Official Organ of the American Library Association. Edited by CHARLES A. CUTTER, Librarian Boston Athenæum, and R. R. BOWKER. Subscription, \$5 per annum, postpaid (including the *Literary News*, monthly); single nos., 50 cts.

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Control a part of the publications of W. J. Widdleton and Albert Mason.—*T. L. Annual*: Albert Mason, 1874-78. A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1879-86.—*Pub. Spec.*: Historical, Juveniles, School-Books, Standard Works, Theology.

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Cassell & Co.  
Clarke & Co., Robert, etc.

Appleton & Co., D.  
Bradley & Bros., Wm. M.  
Cram, G. F.  
Iverson, Blakeman & Co., etc.

Appleton & Co., D.  
Dodd, Mead & Co.  
Ries & Lauriat.  
Funk & Wagnalls, etc.

†Brentano's.  
†Caspar, C. N.  
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**Thornton, El. H. & J. R.** R., Bkr., Stat., News D. 6

Part V. gives the special nature of the various houses, enabling one to reach all firms with only such catalogues, circulars, etc., as may, by the character of their business, be of special interest to them. In this division all Publishers, Book Jobbers, Booksellers, Antiquarian Booksellers, News Companies, Newsdealers, Art Emporiums, Music Dealers, Manufacturing, Jobbing, and Retail Stationers, Blank-Book and Paper Makers, etc., will be separately classified and arranged in alphabetical order.

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